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ABSTRACT

Published jointly by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, this document presents information drawn from a nationally representative sample of state prisoners and from existing homicide data assembled by law enforcement agencies. It sheds new light on the most serious types of child abuse and victimization--those offenses for which a term of imprisonment was imposed or in which a child was murdered. The document contains detailed statistical information on the following: (1) violent offenders who committed crimes against children; (2) criminal histories and characteristics of offenders who have victimized children; (3) characteristics of child victims of violent crime; (4) characteristics of the violent crimes experienced by children; and (5) the victims and offenders in child murder. The document also includes a section offering explanatory notes, including a discussion of methodological issues involved in the study and listings of the numerical data from which 24 graphs presented are drawn. (JW)

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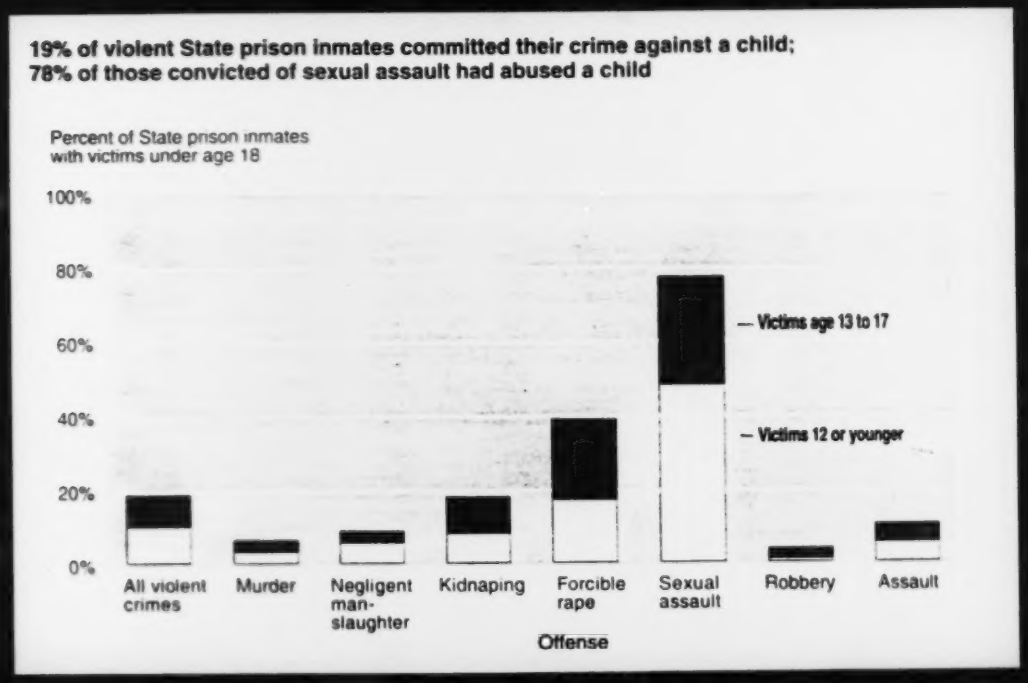

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Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and their Victims

Jointly published with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

By Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Bureau of Justice Statistics Statistician

March 1996, NCJ-153258

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Bureau of Justice Statistics

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director

This report was written by Lawrence A. Greenfeld of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Tracy Snell and Jodi Brown assisted with verification. Tom Hester and Yvonne Boston edited and produced the report. Marilyn Marbrook supervised publication. The author would like to express appreciation to Patrick A. Langan, Ph.D., Carol J. DeFrances, Ph.D., and Marianne Zawitz of BJS and to Jeffrey Slowikowski of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for their thoughtful comments and suggestions. In addition, Melissa H. Sickmund, Ph.D., and Howard N. Snyder of the National Center for Juvenile Justice and James Alan Fox, Ph.D., Dean, College of Criminal Justice, Northeastern University, facilitated the analysis of the most recent data on child murder.

The data analyzed for this report may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (800-999-0960). The two datasets are cataloged as Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities, 1991 (ICPSR6068) and Uniform Crime Reports: Supplementary Homicide Reports 1976-92 (ICPSR6387). Supplementary Homicide Reports for 1993-94 will be available in the near future.

An electronic version of this report and the data analyzed in the report may be found on the Internet at — http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

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Foreword

This report, utilizing the responses of a nationally representative sample of State prisoners, together with homicide data assembled by law enforcement agencies, sheds new light on the most serious types of child abuse and victimization — those offenses for which a term of imprisonment was imposed or in which the child was murdered.

The vast majority of prison inmates whose victims were under age 18 had committed some form of sexual assault or molestation. The victims were typically children whom they had known, not randomly selected strangers. Nearly a third of those serving time in State prisons for violence against children had victimized their own child or a stepchild.

The problems of family violence and sexual assault come together when the victim is a child. This study reveals how different the child victimizer is from the adult victimizer in both criminal history and social background. The violent child victimizer in prison, though usually having a less extensive criminal past than other prisoners, more often has a background of having been sexually abused in childhood.

The findings on child murder, drawn from detailed information from nearly 37,000 child murders since 1976, confirm and elaborate on our agencies' recent reports evidencing growing numbers of victims in the 15-17 age group, increases in the murder of both white and minority youth, and increases in both murders with handguns and murders by strangers or unidentified perpetrators.

We hope that you will find this report, a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to be of interest and value for helping to lay the foundation for addressing the problem of violence against children.

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D
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Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Highlights

Based on the reports of offenders in the Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities:

Characteristics of offenses against children

► An estimated 18.6% of inmates serving time in State prisons in 1991 for violent crimes, or about 61,000 offenders nationwide, had been convicted of a crime against a victim under age 18.

► 1 in 5 violent offenders serving time in a State prison reported having victimized a child.

► More than half the violent crimes committed against children involved victims age 12 or younger.

► 7 in 10 offenders with child victims reported that they were imprisoned for a rape or sexual assault.

► Two-thirds of all prisoners convicted of rape or sexual assault had committed their crime against a child.

Characteristics of the offenders

► All but 3% of offenders who committed violent crimes against children were male.

► Offenders who had victimized a child were on average 5 years older than the violent offenders who had committed their crimes against adults. Nearly 25% of child victimizers were age 40 or older, but about 10% of the inmates with adult victims fell in that age range.

► While nearly 70% of those serving time for violent crimes against children were white, whites accounted for 40% of those imprisoned for violent crimes against adults.

► Inmates who victimized children were less likely than other inmates to have a prior criminal record — nearly a third of child-victimizers had never been arrested prior to the current offense, compared to less than 20% of those who victimized adults.

► Violent child-victimizers were substantially more likely than those with adult victims to have been physically or sexually abused when they were children, though the majority of violent offenders, regardless of victim age, did not have a history of such abuse.

► About 14% of child victimizers carried a weapon during the violent crime, compared to nearly half of those who victimized adults.

► About 10% of violent offenders with child victims received life or death sentences and the average prison term was 11 years, somewhat shorter average sentences than received by those with adult victims.

Characteristics of the victims

► 3 in 10 child victimizers reported that they had committed their crimes against multiple victims; they were more likely than those who victimized adults to have had multiple victims.

► 3 in 4 child victims of violence were female.

► For the vast majority of child-victimizers in State prison, the victim was someone they knew before the crime:

A third had committed their crime against their own child.

About half had a relationship with the victim as a friend, acquaintance, or relative other than offspring.

About 1 in 7 reported the victim to have been a stranger to them.

► Three-quarters of the violent victimizations of children took place in either the victim's home or the offender's home.

► 4 in 10 child victims of violence suffered either a forcible rape or another injury.

Child murder victims

Based on incident-level homicide data collected by the FBI:

► Children under the age of 18 accounted for 11% of all murder victims in the United States in 1994. Nearly half of the 2,660 child victims were between ages 15 and 17. About 1 in 5 child victims were known to be killed by another child.

► Between 1976 and 1994 an estimated 37,000 children were murdered.

► Since the mid-1980's the increases in both the number and the rate of murder among persons age 15 to 17, and particularly among black youth in this age range, have outpaced changes in murder in all other age groups.

► The victim-offender relationship in child murder varies with the age of the victim: In most murders of a young child, a family member killed the child, while in most murders of an older child, age 15 to 17, the perpetrator was an acquaintance to the victim or was unknown to law enforcement authorities. About 1 in 5 child murders were committed by a family member.

► Half of all child murders in 1994 were committed with a handgun; about 7 in 10 victims age 15 to 17 were killed with a handgun.

About the sources of data

Descriptions of the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities and of the Supplementary Homicide Reports begin on page 23.

Violent offenders who committed crimes against children

Table 1. Offense distribution of State prisoners and percent of those prisoners with victims under age 18, 1991

Offense	State prison inmates, by offense				Percent of all prisoners serving time for crimes against children
	All prisoners		Child victimizers		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All offenses	711,643	100.0%	65,163	100.0%	9.2%
Violent offenses	327,958	46.1%	61,037	93.7%	18.6%
Homicide	87,479	12.3%	5,792	8.9%	6.6%
Murder	74,693	10.5	4,677	7.2	6.3
Negligent manslaughter	12,786	1.8	1,115	1.7	8.7
Kidnaping	8,369	1.2	1,508	2.3%	18.0%
Rape and sexual assault	66,482	9.3%	43,552	66.8%	65.5%
Forcible rape	22,797	3.2	8,908	13.7	39.1
Forcible sodomy	2,036	.3	1,741	2.7	85.5
Statutory rape	1,162	.2	1,102	1.7	94.8
Lewd acts with children	10,799	1.5	10,799	16.6	100.0
Other sexual assault	29,688	4.2	21,002	32.2	70.7
Robbery	104,136	14.6	3,772	5.8%	3.6%
Assault	59,275	8.3%	6,058	9.3%	10.2%
Aggravated assault	55,549	7.8	3,933	6.0	7.1
Child abuse	1,717	.2	1,717	2.6	100.0
Simple assault	2,009	.3	408	6	20.3
Other violent	2,217	.3%	355	.5%	16.0%
Nonviolent offenses	383,685	53.9%	4,126	6.3%	1.1%

Note: Aggravated assault includes assault on a police officer. The victim-offender relationship was generally asked for those offenders serving time for violence. However, some offenders serving time for the public-order crimes involving offenses against morals and decency reported that their victims had been children. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Nearly two-thirds of rapists and sexual assaulters in State prison committed their crime against a child

The 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities revealed that just under half of all prisoners incarcerated in State prisons had been convicted of one or more violent crimes (table 1). These violent offenders were asked to describe various characteristics of their victims, including their best estimate of the victim's age at the time of the crime.

• For an estimated 18.6% of violent State prisoners, the most serious crime for which they were serving time had been committed against a child. In 1991 this translated into about 61,000 child victimizers held in confinement by State authorities from among the 328,000 inmates imprisoned for violent crimes.

• Among all State prison inmates sentenced for these crimes, there were —

— 15 times as many murderers of adults as murderers of children

— 4½ times as many kidnapers with adult victims as kidnapers of children

— 1½ times as many forcible rapists with adult victims as with child victims

— nearly 27 times as many robbers with adult victims as robbers with child victims

—13 times as many offenders convicted of aggravated assault of an adult as those who had assaulted a child.

Rape and sexual assault

• Among the victimizers of children, two-thirds had committed a rape or sexual assault. According to the self-reports of violent offenders, nearly 4 in 10 inmates incarcerated for forcible rape and more than 8 out of 10 incarcerated for a forcible sodomy had committed their crimes against a victim who was below age 18.

Murder

• An estimated 7.2% of child victimizers in prison had murdered their victims.

Physical assault

• Aggravated assault, child abuse, and simple assault accounted for about 9% of the inmates serving time for crimes against children. Overall, about 1 in 10 State prison inmates convicted of assault had a victim who was a child.

• A conviction offense for the specific offense of child abuse was infrequent among those imprisoned, accounting for about 1 in 500 inmates nationwide and less than 3% of those serving time for crimes against children.

More than half of violent child victimizers had victims age 12 or younger

More than half the inmates with child victims who had been convicted of violence, or about 10% of all violent offenders in State prisons, reported that their victims had been age 12 or younger (table 2). An estimated 33,000 offenders were serving time in 1991 for violent crimes committed against these young children — more than 25,000 of these, or 3 out of 4, committed a rape or sexual assault against a young child.

• Certain types of violent crimes were more commonly described by offenders with younger child victims, such as lewd acts with a child (fondling, molestation, or indecent practices) and child abuse, while those with older child victims were more likely to have committed forcible rape or robbery (figure 1).

• Offense distributions for incarcerated offenders with child victims varied by the age of the victim:

Offense	Percent of violent offenders with victims — Age 12 or less	Ages 13-17
All violent offenses	100.0%	100.0%
Homicide	9.0%	10.3%
Murder	6.8	8.9
Negligent manslaughter	2.2	1.4
Kidnaping	2.0%	3.1%
Rape and sexual assault	75.4%	66.3%
Forcible rape	11.7	18.6
Forcible sodomy	3.1	2.6
Statutory rape	1.8	1.4
Lewd acts with children	21.6	11.8
Other sexual assault	37.2	31.9
Robbery	3.2%	9.6%
Assault	9.7%	10.4%
Aggravated assault	4.9	8.6
Child abuse	4.5	.7
Simple assault	.2	1.2
Other violent	.7%	.3%
Number of inmates	33,287	26,998

• Among inmates with child victims, more than half of those convicted of negligent manslaughter, forcible sodomy, statutory rape, lewd acts with children, other sexual assaults, or assault reported that their victims had been age 12 or younger.

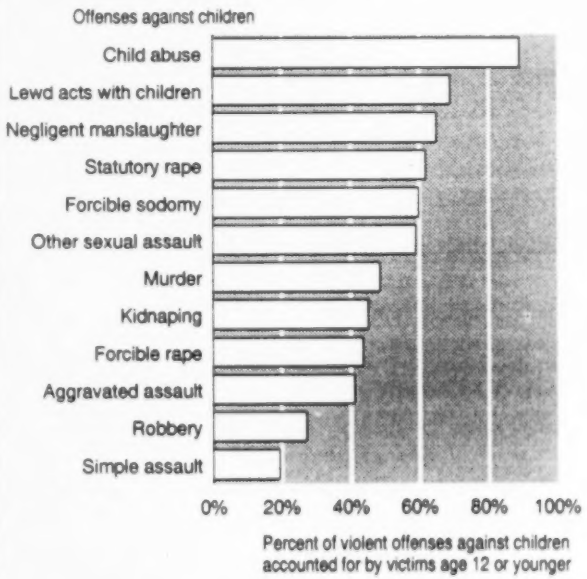
• Those inmates who had attacked children age 12 or younger accounted for almost 90% of State prisoners serving time for child abuse, more than 50% of those convicted of forcible sodomy, 17% of forcible rape offenders, 8% of those incarcerated for kidnaping or abduction, 6% of those serving time for negligent manslaughter, 5% of those convicted of assault, and 3% of all murderers in State prisons.

Table 2. Violent child victimizers in State prisons, by age of victim, 1991

Violent offense	Prisoners serving time for crimes against children: All	Victims age 12 or younger	Victims age 13 to 17	Percent with victims age 12 or younger
Total	60,285	33,287	26,998	55.2%
Homicide	5,792	3,006	2,787	51.9%
Murder	4,677	2,279	2,399	48.7
Negligent manslaughter	1,115	727	388	65.2
Kidnaping	1,508	682	826	45.2%
Rape and sexual assault	42,993	25,102	17,892	58.4%
Forcible rape	8,908	3,893	5,015	43.7
Forcible sodomy	1,729	1,039	690	60.1
Statutory rape	984	611	373	62.1
Lewd acts with children	10,370	7,175	3,195	69.2
Other sexual assault	21,002	12,384	8,619	59.0
Robbery	3,656	1,051	2,605	28.7%
Assault	6,035	3,215	2,818	53.3%
Aggravated assault	3,933	1,623	2,309	41.3
Child abuse	1,694	1,513	181	89.3
Simple assault	408	79	328	19.4
Other violent	301	231	70	76.7%

Note: Excludes 752 cases for which the specific age of the victim was not reported. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Children under age 13 were victimized by types of crime different from those victimizing children age 13-17



When the victims were younger, the offender was more likely to have been convicted of child abuse, lewd acts, statutory rape, or sodomy. Older child victims were more often reported by those convicted of forcible rape, robbery, or assault.

Fig. 1

Criminal history of prisoners who victimized children

About 6 in 10 offenders who victimized children had previously served sentences to probation or incarceration, and 1 in 4 had a prior history of violence

Violent offenders who victimized children reported a less extensive criminal history than those who committed their offenses against victims age 18 or older (figure 2). Nearly 3 out of 4 violent offenders with adult victims had prior conviction histories with sentences to probation or confinement; a third of adult victimizers had a record of convictions for violence. About 1 in 20 child victimizers, and about 1 in 250 adult victimizers, had prior convictions for offenses specifying a child as victim, such as statutory rape, lewd acts with children, and child abuse.

- Arrest histories reported by the inmates also vary with the age of the victim (table 3). About half of those who committed their current offense against a child had been arrested once before or had never been arrested prior to the current offense. By contrast, about a third of those with adult victims had less extensive arrest histories.

- While about 1 in 4 adult victimizers reported an arrest history involving 6 or more arrests prior to the current offense, about 1 in 6 child victimizers had such a lengthy arrest record.

Table 3. Criminal history of violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991

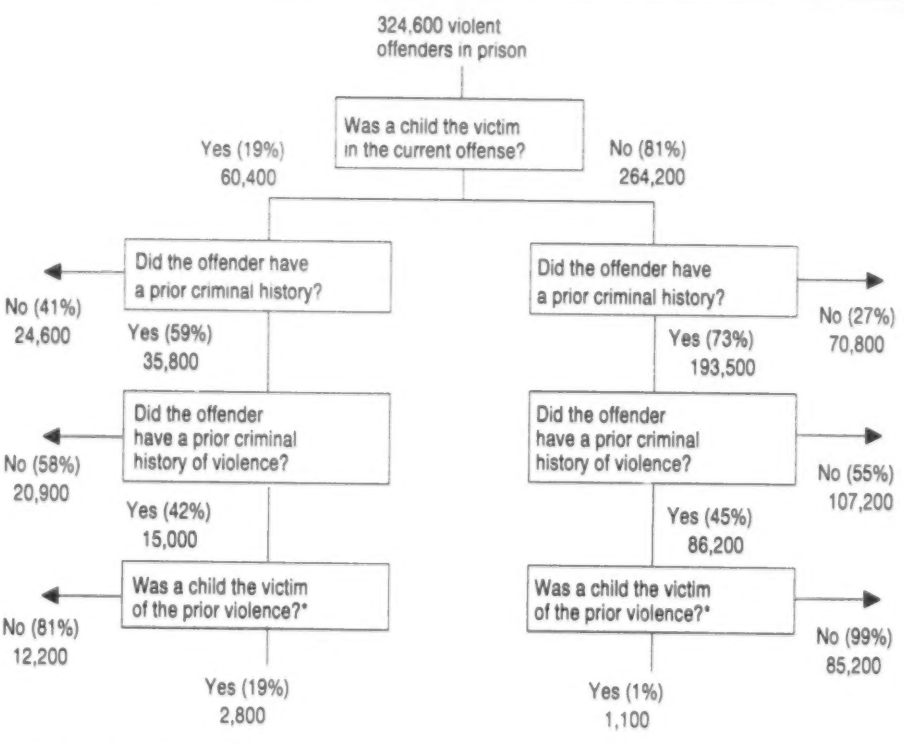
Number of prior arrests as an adult or juvenile	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
None	21.4%	32.3%	18.9%
1	16.5	19.3	15.8
2	14.7	14	14.9
3	10.9	7.6	11.6
4	7.7	7	7.9
5	5.6	3.7	6.1
6 to 9	8.8	6.8	9.3
10 or more	14.4	9.3	15.5
Total	321,123	60,299	260,824

Among violent offenders —

59% of those with a child victim, compared to 73% of those with an adult victim, had been previously sentenced to probation, jail, or prison

42% of those with a child victim and a prior criminal history had a past conviction for a violent crime

19% of child victimizers convicted of prior violence had been convicted in the past of statutory rape, lewd acts with a child, or child abuse


324,600 violent offenders in prison
Was a child the victim in the current offense?
Yes (19%) 60,400
No (81%) 264,200
Did the offender have a prior criminal history?
No (41%) 24,600
Yes (59%) 35,800
Did the offender have a prior criminal history?
Yes (73%) 193,500
No (27%) 70,800
Did the offender have a prior criminal history of violence?
No (58%) 20,900
Yes (42%) 15,000
Did the offender have a prior criminal history of violence?
Yes (45%) 86,200
No (55%) 107,200
Was a child the victim of the prior violence?*
No (81%) 12,200
Yes (19%) 2,800
Was a child the victim of the prior violence?*
Yes (1%) 1,100
No (99%) 85,200

*Prior violence with a child victim includes statutory rape, lewd acts with a child, and child abuse

Fig. 2

• Offenders with child victims accounted for 18.6% of all violent offenders in prison. Child victimizers composed 28% of those violent offenders with no prior arrests and 22% of those with one prior arrest (figure 3). By contrast, they accounted for about 12% of those with at least 10 prior arrests.

•Consistent with their less extensive arrest records, 4 out of 10 offenders with child victims were serving time after their first conviction for a crime (figure 4). Just over a quarter of violent offenders with adult victims were first-timers.

Violent offenders with a less extensive arrest history were more likely to report having victimized a child

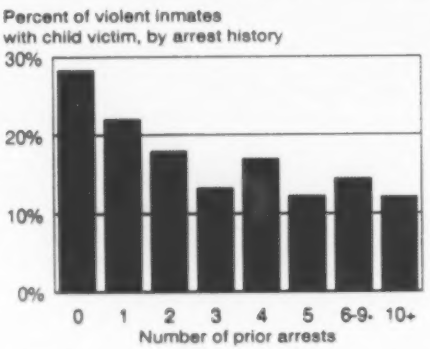
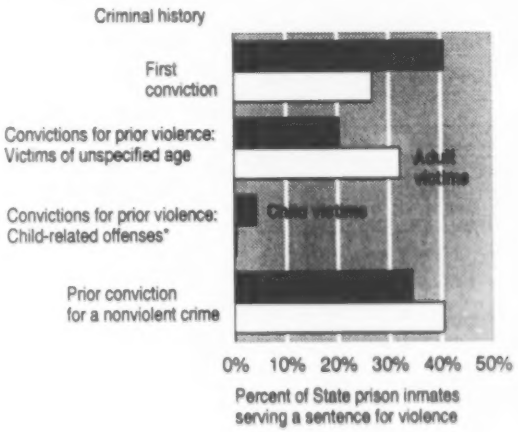


Fig. 3

About a fourth of violent offenders with a child victim had served a prior sentence for a violent crime

Among violent offenders in State prisons, those sentenced for a crime against a child were less likely than those who had victimized an adult to have been previously sentenced to probation, jail, or prison.


Criminal history
First conviction
Convictions for prior violence: Victims of unspecified age
Convictions for prior violence: Child-related offenses*
Prior conviction for a nonviolent crime
Adult victims
Child victims
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%
Percent of State prison inmates serving a sentence for violence

*Statutory rape, lewd acts with a child, and child abuse.

Fig. 4

Special sentencing conditions

Violent offenders with a child victim were more likely than violent offenders with an adult victim to have a special sentencing requirement to participate in a sex offender treatment program or in psychiatric or psychological counseling. The judge compelled just over 13% of child victimizers and about 2% of those who had committed a violent crime against an adult to receive treatment. An estimated 29% of those convicted of forcible sodomy of a child were required to be in a sex offender treatment program as a condition of their prison sentence.

Characteristics of offenders who victimized children

Inmates convicted of violence against children were more likely to have been white, to have been married, and to have been older than offenders who victimized adults

The characteristics and backgrounds of inmates who committed their offenses against children differed markedly from those offenders who reported an adult victim. Though both groups of offenders were similar in being composed almost entirely of men, significant contrasts were found in the following:

Race

• Among imprisoned violent offenders, about equal percentages were white (48.0%) or black (48.1%) (table 4). By contrast, nearly 70% of child victimizers were white, while just over 25% of child victimizers were black.

• White inmates were nearly 3 times more likely than black inmates to have had a child victim. About 27% of all white inmates in State prisons for violent crimes committed their crimes against a child; less than 10% of black inmates serving time for violence had a child victim.

Hispanic origin

• Little difference in the percentages of Hispanic prisoners existed between those serving time for violence against children — 11.1% were Hispanic — and those convicted for violence against adults — 14.5% were Hispanic. About 1 in every 7 Hispanic inmates imprisoned for a violent crime reported that their victim was under age 18.

Marital status

• Marital status distinguished child victimizers from adult victimizers in the violent State inmate population. Child victimizers were substantially more likely than adult victimizers to have ever been married. Nearly two-thirds of those who reported having committed their crime against a child had married; nearly 6 in 10 adult victimizers had never married.

Table 4. Demographic characteristics of violent offenders, by victim age, 1991

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Adult victims
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Sex			
Male	96.2%	96.6%	96.1%
Female	3.8	3.4	3.9
Race			
White	48.0%	69.7%	43.1%
Black	48.1	25.5	53.3
Other	3.9	4.8	3.6
Hispanic origin			
Hispanic	13.9%	11.1%	14.5%
Non-Hispanic	86.1	88.9	85.5
Marital status			
Married	17.1%	23.3%	15.7%
Widowed	2.6	2.0	2.7
Divorced	21.4	32.7	18.9
Separated	5.6	5.4	5.6
Never married	53.3	36.5	57.1
Age at arrest for current offense			
17 or younger	3.0%	2.1%	3.2%
18-24	38.1	26.1	40.8
25-29	22.1	17.6	23.1
30-34	15.0	16.9	14.6
35-39	8.8	12.0	8.1
40-44	5.0	7.9	4.4
45-49	3.4	6.2	2.7
50-54	1.7	4.1	1.2
55-59	1.5	4.3	.9
60 or older	1.4	2.8	1.0
Mean age at arrest	29 yr	33 yr	28 yr
Median age at arrest	27	31	26
Education			
8th grade or less	13.5%	17.1%	12.7%
9th grade	12.1	11.4	12.2
10th grade	16.2	12.9	17
11th grade	17.9	14.0	18.7
12th grade	26.0	26.9	25.8
College	14.3	17.7	13.6
Employment in month before arrest			
Employed	69.6%	78.0%	67.7%
Unemployed	30.4	22.0	32.3
Total number	327,958	61,037	266,920

State prisoners who had committed their crime against a child comprised over 45% of violent inmates arrested in their 50's and under 14% of those arrested in their 20's.

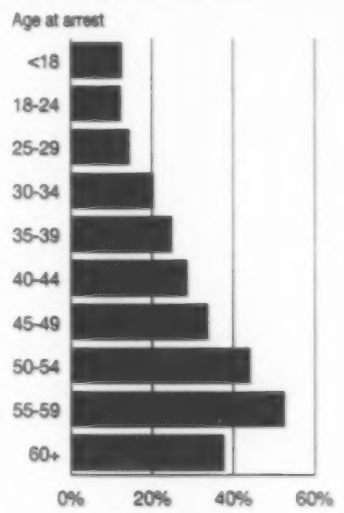


Fig. 5

Age

• The age of victims varied inversely with the age of offenders — inmates who were older at the time of the arrest for the violent crimes for which they had been imprisoned were more likely to have had child victims (figure 5). At the time of the arrest for the violent crime which brought them to prison, child victimizers were an average 5 years older than those who victimized adults.

• While about 11% of child victimizers were age 50 or older when arrested, about 3% of those who victimized adults were at least 50. Among those who had been arrested at age 24 or younger, about 1 in 8 had victimized a child; among those age 55 or older, nearly 4 in 8 had a child victim.

Offenders serving time for crimes against children were more likely to have grown up in homes with both parents present and to have suffered sexual abuse as a child

• Overall, in terms of the type of family background they had as children, white and black violent offenders differed sharply — 56% of the whites and 31% of the blacks grew up in homes with both parents present. The family background of white offenders, who made up three-fourths of those with a child victim, characterized a majority of child victimizers (table 5).

• Black victimizers of children had the same family background as black victimizers of adults. White victimizers of children were more likely than white victimizers of adults to have lived with both parents.

Primarily grew up with—	Child victimizers		Adult victimizers	
	White	Black	White	Black
Single parent	25%	55%	34%	53%
Both parents	63	30	53	31
Other	12	15	13	16

• Adult and child victimizers did not substantially differ in the percentage who had ever been in an institution or foster home as a child, the percentage who said their parents or guardians had abused drugs or alcohol, and the percentage who reported that an immediate family member, parent, or sibling had ever served time for a crime.

Table 5. Family background of violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Primarily grew up with —			
Mother only	39.0%	30.1%	41.0%
Father only	3.6	2.8	3.8
Both parents	43.7	54.2	41.2
Grandparents	7.3	5.7	7.7
Other relatives	3.0	2.2	3.2
Foster home or institution	2.7	4.3	2.3
Other	.7	.7	.8
Ever spent time in a foster home or institution			
Yes	18.5%	16.6%	18.8%
No	81.6	83.4	81.2
Parents/guardians abused drugs or alcohol			
Yes	27.7%	31.5%	26.9%
No	72.3	68.5	73.1
Immediate family member ever served time			
Yes	37.0%	35.6%	37.3%
No	63.0	64.4	62.7
Total number	327,958	61,037	266,920

Table 6. Prior physical or sexual abuse experienced by violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Ever physically or sexually abused			
No	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Yes	17.1	31.0	13.9
Physical abuse only	8.2	8.8	8.1
Sexual abuse only	3.1	8.7	1.9
Both physical and sexual abuse	5.7	13.5	4.0
Age at which abuse occurred			
No abuse	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Abused	17.1	31.0	13.9
Less than 18 years old	12.4	25.7	9.3
18 years old or older	2.0	1.4	2.1
Both as a child and an adult	2.9	3.9	2.6
Who the abuser was			
No prior abuse	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Stranger	2.0	2.7	1.9
Known	15.1	28.3	12.0
Parent/guardian	7.9	13.7	6.5
Other relative	2.9	6.4	2.1
Acquaintance	4.3	8.1	3.4
Total number	327,958	61,037	266,920

Note: Other relatives includes spouses and ex-spouses and acquaintances includes boyfriends and girlfriends. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

• The majority of violent offenders, regardless of the age of the victim of their imprisonment offense, reported no prior experience as a child or an adult with having been physically or sexually abused (table 6).

• Inmates with child victims were more than twice as likely as inmates with adult victims to report having suffered prior instances of physical or sexual abuse. The differences were particularly striking with respect to sexual abuse. While an estimated 22% of child victimizers reported having been sexually abused, less than 6% of adult victimizers reported such backgrounds.

• Among all violent offenders with a history of having been sexually abused, nearly half had child victims. Among all violent offenders with a history of having been physically abused, nearly 30% had child victims. Among violent offenders with no history of physical or sexual abuse, 15.5% had child victims.

• About 95% of child victimizers and 86% of adult victimizers who reported having been abused physically or sexually said that such abuse had occurred while they were children. Among those who suffered physical or sexual abuse before age 18, 36% had child victims; among those who suffered abuse after entering adulthood, 13% had child victims.

• For about 9 out of 10 violent offenders experiencing prior physical or sexual abuse, the abuser was someone they had known. For both inmates with child victims and inmates with adult victims, about half reported that the abuse they suffered was by a parent or guardian. However, child victimizers (13.7%) were about twice as likely as adult victimizers (6.5%) to have suffered parental abuse. The percentage of child victimizers varied according to who had abused them:

Who abused the offenders	Percent of violent offenders with child victims
No abuse	15.5%
Stranger	24.5
Parent/guardian	32.4
Other relative	46.6
Acquaintances	43.1

Table 7. Drug and alcohol use by violent offenders, by age of victim

Alcohol and drug use at time of the offense	Percent of State prison inmates serving time for a violent offense	
	Child victims	Adult victims
Total	100.0%	100.0%
None	56.9	41.8
Drugs only	5.3	10.9
Alcohol only	23.9	26.5
Both alcohol and drugs	13.9	20.8
Type of drug used		
None	80.8%	68.3%
Any drug*	19.2	31.7
Marijuana	5.2	8.0
Cocaine	4.2	6.9
Crack	1.4	4.2
Heroin	1.7	4.4
LSD	.7	.8
PCP	.6	.8
Barbituates	.7	1.1
Amphetamines	1.2	1.3
Methamphetamines	.9	1.3

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
*Includes other drugs not separately shown. The percentages reflect the use of a hierarchy for inmates reporting more than one type of drug; only the most serious drug is considered.

Violent offenders with child victims reported less involvement than adult victimizers with drugs or alcohol at the time of the crime

About 6 in 10 inmates who committed their violent crime against an adult reported that they had either been drinking alcohol, using drugs, or doing both at the time they committed the offense (table 7). About 6 in 10 child victimizers reported that they were using neither drugs nor alcohol at the time of their crime.

• Among violent inmates reporting no use of drugs or alcohol at the time of the crime, 23.8% reported having victimized a child. Among those who reported alcohol use, 17.1% said they had committed their crime against a child. About 10% of drug users and 13% of those using both drugs and alcohol at the time of the crime reported that their victim had been a child.

• Nearly 4 in 10 child victimizers reported that they had been drinking at the time of the crime. Among drinkers, about half reported that they had been drinking for 6 hours or more preceding the offense.

Number of hours drinking	Percent of drinking child victimizers
1 hour or less	8.6%
2 hours	12.3
3 hours	10.7
4 hours	11.9
5 hours	7.9
6 or more hours	48.6

• About a third of adult victimizers and a fifth of child victimizers said they were using drugs at the time of the offense. The most commonly reported drugs used by all violent offenders, regardless of victim age, were marijuana and cocaine. About 1 in 71 child victimizers and 1 in 24 adult victimizers said that they had been using crack at the time of the offense.

Sentences of offenders who victimized children

The median prison sentence imposed for child murder or kidnaping was longer than that for such offenses with an adult victim; for rape and sexual assault, the median was shorter with a child victim

The median sentence for an offender convicted of violence against a child was 132 months or 11 years; when the victim was an adult, the median sentence was 180 months or 15 years (figure 6). About 10% of violent State prisoners with child victims had sentences to life or death; nearly 19% of violent offenders with adult victims had life or death sentences (table 9).
The reasons for such differences may stem from a wide variety of contingencies associated with both the offense and the offender. For example —

the kind of violent offense
whether weapons were used
whether the victim suffered injury
whether the offender had a record.

The sentences reported by State prisoners in 1991 may not represent the sentences imposed in a given year, since those with the longest sentences will accumulate in prison.

• Among offenders who received a sentence to a term of years, when the victim was a child rather than an adult, the median sentence was longer for murder, kidnaping, and negligent manslaughter, shorter for rape and sexual assault, and the same for robbery and assault —

	Child	Adult
Murder	360 months	300 months
Kidnaping	288	204
Negligent manslaughter	180	156
Rape	180	240
Sexual assault	132	185
Robbery	144	144
Assault	120	120

Sentences to life in prison or death

• Offenses which are the most likely to carry a life or death sentence include murder, kidnaping, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. An estimated 83% of child victimizers with life/death sentences and 97% of adult victimizers with life/death sentences had been convicted of these crimes.

Factors influencing sentencing

• Other factors which help to account for longer sentences are also more commonly found among violent offenders with adult victims — more extensive offender criminal history (see page 3), a greater likelihood that weapons, particularly firearms, were used (see page 13), and a greater likelihood of victim injury (see page 14).

Overall, the median sentence for a violent offender who had victimized a child was 132 months, and if the victim was an adult, the median sentence was 180 months

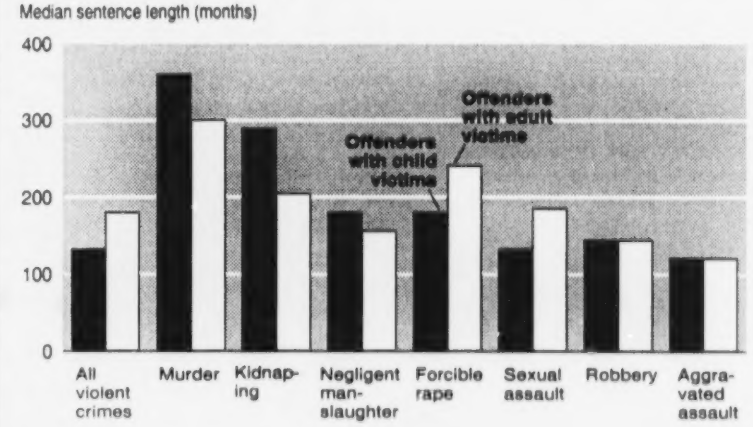


Fig. 6

Table 9. Violent offenders with life sentences, by age of victim, 1991

Offense	Percent of violent offenders in State prison with life sentences: Child victims	Adult victims
Total	9.5%	18.6%
Homicide	49.3%	46.6%
Murder	61.0	53.9
Negligent manslaughter	0	2.9
Kidnaping	16.7%	31.1%
Rape and sexual assault	4.7%	13.3%
Forcible rape	11.9	14.8
Forcible sodomy	3.1	0
Statutory rape	5.9	0
Lewd acts with children	.5	–
Other sexual assault	3.9	11.4
Robbery	12.0%	4.6%
Assault	2.9%	3.5%
Aggravated assault	4.5	3.6
Child abuse	0	–
Simple assault	0	0
Other violent	0	3.4%

Note: Life sentences include sentences to death, which could not be shown separately because of the small number of sample cases.
–No cases were in this category.

Characteristics of child victims of violent crime

Among inmates who committed their violent crime against a child, 3 in 10 reported having victimized more than one child

State prison inmates who reported having committed their crime against a child were more likely to have had multiple victims (figure 7). Offenders with multiple child-victims were most likely to be serving time for robbery, aggravated assault, negligent manslaughter, or murder (table 10).

- Those serving time for the murder or negligent manslaughter of a child were nearly 3 times as likely as offenders convicted of the murder or negligent manslaughter of an adult to report having had multiple victims.
- Those serving time after conviction for forcible rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault were all about twice as likely to report having had multiple victims if they described their victims as children.

Table 11. Estimated number of victims reported by child victimizers in State prison, 1991

Number of victims	Estimated number of offenders			Estimated number of victims		
		Age of child victims				
	Total	12 years old or less	13-17 years	Total	12 years or less	13-17 years
Total	60,405	33,047	26,998	94,510	53,843	40,667
1	42,769	22,656	20,113	42,769	22,656	20,113
More than 1	17,636	10,751	6,885	51,741	31,187	20,554
2	9,211	5,298	3,914	18,424	10,596	7,828
3	4,323	3,293	1,031	12,972	9,879	3,093
4	1,564	828	736	6,256	3,312	2,944
5	1,127	592	535	5,635	2,960	2,675
6	1,411	740	669	8,454	4,440	4,014

- About 7% of violent offenders who victimized children reported having had 4 or more child victims (table 11). Based on the estimated number of victims reported by the State inmates in 1991, the more than 60,000 violent offenders who had child victims may have had as many as 95,000 victims.
- While about 7 in 10 offenders reported having victimized one child, less than half of the child victims are accounted for by single-victim incidents. From the ages described by offenders who had multiple victims, it is possible to estimate that 57% of all child victims of violent State prisoners were age 12 or younger.

Table 10. Child victimizers and the estimated number of victims, by offense, 1991

Violent offense	Percent of child victimizers serving time in State prison	
	Single victims	Multiple victims
Total	70.7%	29.3%
Homicide	61.4%	38.6%
Murder	62.1	37.9
Negligent manslaughter	58.5	41.5
Kidnaping	76.5%	23.5%
Rape and sexual assault	76.7%	23.3%
Forcible rape	79.7	20.3
Forcible sodomy	75.3	24.7
Statutory rape	79.6	20.4
Lewd acts with children	68.9	31.1
Other sexual assault	79.2	20.8
Robbery	23.0%	77.0%
Assault	64.3%	35.6%
Aggravated assault	57.3	42.7
Child abuse	81.6	18.4
Simple assault	61.9	38.1
Other violent	95.6%	4.4%

In every violent crime category among State prison inmates, a higher percentage of those who had committed crimes against children than of those whose victims were adults reported having multiple victims

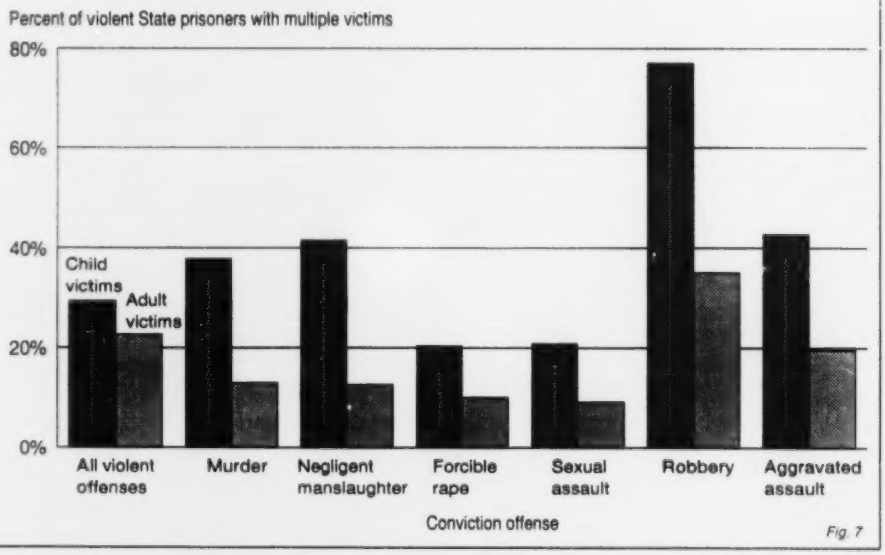


Fig. 7

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Three out of four child victims of violent offenders were female and nearly a third were the offender's own child or stepchild

Inmates convicted of violent crimes against children described a wide variety of characteristics of their victims. Because most inmate descriptions of characteristics of victims in single victim incidents do not differ greatly from the characteristics of those in multiple victim incidents, this section focuses upon describing child victims utilizing the 70% of offenders who had one victim.

• Among violent offenders who victimized children, the vast majority (75%) reported the victim had been a female (table 12).

• These child victims, like the inmates who described them, were more likely to have been white than the adult victims of violent offenders. Overall, for nearly 9 out of 10 child victims, the offender was of the same race.

Offender race/ victim race	Percent of child victimizations
White/white	65.9%
Black/black	21.5
All other combinations	12.7

• Just over half the imprisoned violent offenders reported that their victim had been age 12 or younger.

• An estimated 86% of child victimizers reported that a prior relationship existed with the victim (tables 12 and 13). About 14% of those serving time in State prisons for violent crimes against children had committed their crime against a stranger.

• More than 40% of offenders with child victims said the victim had been a relative or member of their immediate family. For 3 out of 4 of these offenders, and about a third of child victimizers overall, the victim was their own child or a stepchild.

Table 12. Characteristics of child victims in single victim incidents, 1991

Characteristic of child victims	Percent of child victims
Total	100.0%
Sex	
Male	24.7%
Female	75.3
Race	
White	71.6%
Black	24.5
Other	3.9
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	9.4%
Non-Hispanic	90.6
Age	
Less than age 12	52.9%
Age 12 to 17	47.1
Victim/offender relationship	
Stranger	14.1%
Known	85.9
Own child/stepchild	32.2
Sibling	1.0
Other relative	10.3
Girlfriend/ex-girlfriend	3.7
Acquaintance	36.6
By sight only	2.0
Total number of offenders with single victims	42,946

Table 13. Victim-offender relationship among prisoners serving time for violence against children, 1991

Single-victim incident	Number of State prison inmates	Percent of State prison inmates serving time for a violent crime, by relationship to their child victim: Stranger	Own child[a]	Other family	Acquaintance	Intimate[b]
Total	42,616	14.6%	32.1%	11.1%	38.4%	3.8%
Homicide	3,545	29.5%	23.3%	8.2%	37.4%	1.6%
Murder	2,906	29.1	23.3	9.3	38.3	0
Negligent manslaughter	639	31.5	23.3	2.8	33.7	8.7
Kidnaping	1,153	55.5%	7.1	7.5	16.8	13.1
Rape and sexual assault	32,923	9.9%	33.4%	12.5%	40.1%	4.1%
Forcible rape	7,099	11.9	36.2	8.9	36.9	6.0
Forcible sodomy	1,303	4.3	35.9	27.9	22.2	9.6
Statutory rape	878	0	27.9	0	72.1	0
Lewd acts with children	7,136	6.9	31.9	17.9	40.8	2.6
Other sexual assault	16,507	11.3	32.9	11.2	40.9	3.6
Robbery	811	55.3%	8.4%	6.5%	22.6%	7.3%
Assault	3,895	20.3%	39.1%	4.6%	35.9%	0
Aggravated assault	2,253	29.8	25.7	5.4	39.1	0
Child abuse	1,390	4.3	63.9	4.3	27.5	0
Simple assault	252	–	–	–	–	–
Other violent	288	–	–	–	–	–

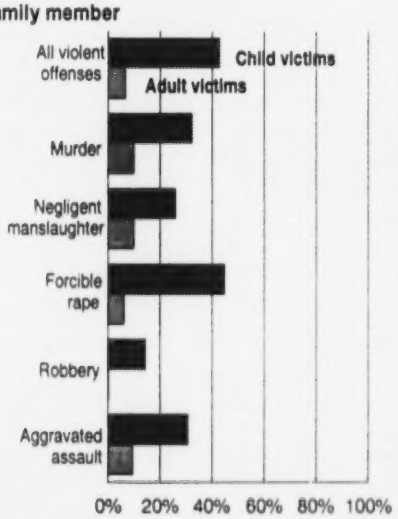
–Too few sample cases for an accurate estimate.
[a]Includes stepchildren.
[b]Boyfriend or girlfriend.

Violent State prisoners were about 6 times as likely to have been related to a child victim as to an adult victim

In 1991 among violent State inmates whose crime was against one victim--

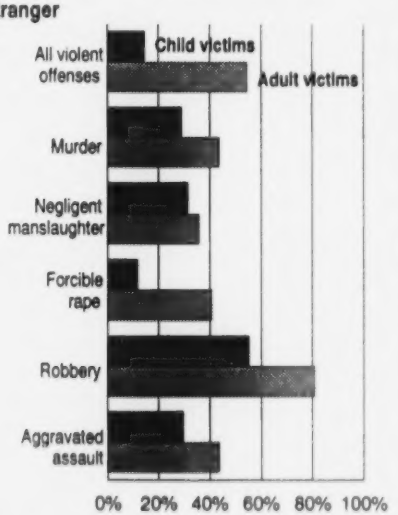
An estimated 43% of the child victims and 7% of the adult victims were a relative of the offender

Family member



An estimated 15% of the child victims and 55% of the adult victims were a stranger to the offender

Stranger



Figs. 8 & 9

Less than 10% of inmates serving time for the rape or sexual assault of a child reported that the victim had been a stranger to them

The victim-offender relationship is a major factor distinguishing adult victims of violence from child victims. Among offenders serving time for violence, adult victimizers are substantially less likely to have had a prior relationship with their victim than is true for those who committed their crimes against children.

• Among robbers and kidnapers who reported having victims younger than 18, more than half reported the victim to be a stranger (table 13). Crimes involving sexual assault and rape were the least likely crimes, as reported by the offenders, to involve strangers. About a third of child-murderers serving time in State prison reported that the victim had been their own child or another relative.

• A victim who had been an acquaintance of the inmate accounted for nearly 4 out of 10 child victims of violence. Crimes involving rape and sexual assault accounted for 81% of those serving time for crimes against acquaintances who were children. By type of victim-offender relationship, the offense distribution of child victimizers was —

	Stranger	Acquaintance	Own child	Other family
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Murder	13.6	6.8	5.0	5.7
Rape	13.5	16.0	18.8	13.3
Sexual assault	38.6	64.7	61.5	73.7
Robbery	7.2	1.1	0.5	1.1
Assault	12.8	8.5	11.1	3.9
All other	14.3	2.9	3.1	2.3

• Compared to violent offenders with adult victims, child victimizers in prison were 6 times as likely to have had a victim who was a relative — 43% versus 7% (figure 8). Conversely, adult victimizers were nearly 4 times more likely than child victimizers to have had a victim who was a stranger to them — 55% versus 15% (figure 9).

• The offense backgrounds of child victimizers varied with the victim-offender relationship. More than two-thirds of offenders who were strangers to their victims reported having a prior conviction record and nearly a third of those who committed violent crimes against children who were strangers said that they had a prior history of violence.

	Stranger	Family/intimate	Acquaintance
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
First-timer	32.7	47.4	37.5
Recidivist	67.3	52.6	62.5
No prior violence	35.7	35.9	36.0
Prior violence	31.6	16.8	26.6
Child victim*	6.0	3.1	5.5

*Prisoners reported prior convictions for lewd acts with children, child abuse, or statutory rape.

Characteristics of violent crimes with child victims

Child victimizers in prison were much more likely than violent offenders against adults to have committed the crime in their own home or the victim's home

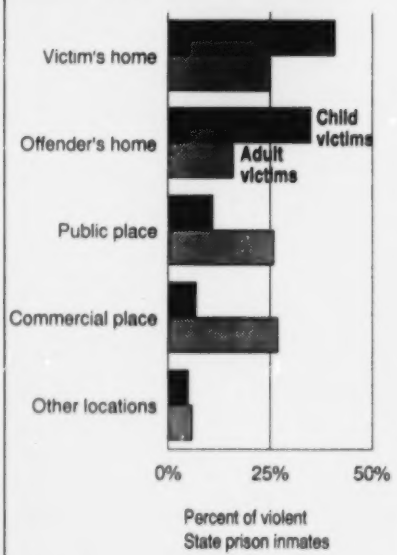
The environment in which victims and offenders come together varies widely with the age of the victim. More than three-quarters of the violent victimizations of children, as reported by State prisoners, took place in either the victim's home (41%) or the offender's home (35%) (figure 10). By contrast, about 40% of violent crimes against adults were reported to have taken place in either of these two locations.

- Crimes involving the sexual assault of a child were about equally likely to have taken place in the victim's home or in the offender's home (table 14).
- Half of the offenders serving time for negligent manslaughter of a child reported that the offense took place in a public place such as a street or park. More than half of the child abuse offenders said that the offense took place in their own home.

More than 8 in 10 violent crimes against children that offenders reported took place in their own homes were forcible rapes or sexual assaults. The offense distribution of crimes against children, by the location in which the crime took place, was as follows:

	Home		Public place
	Victim's	Offender's	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Murder	9.2	3.6	15.5
Negligent manslaughter	.7	1.1	8.0
Rape	15.7	15.6	12.6
Sexual assault	58.7	68.4	35.1
Robbery	4.9	1.6	6.6
Assault	8.0	8.4	18.8
Other crimes	2.8	1.3	3.4

Prisoners had committed most of the violent crimes against children in homes and most of those against adults in public places or businesses



Over 75% of the violent crimes against children took place in the victim's or the offender's home, whereas about 40% of such crimes against adults occurred there.

Fig. 10

Table 14. Place of occurrence of violent crimes against children, 1991

Type of violent offense	Percent of specified violent crimes against children					
	All	Home		Commercial place	Public place	Other locations
		Victim's	Offender's			
Total	100%	41.1%	35.4%	6.7%	11.6%	5.2%
Homicide	100%	42.8%	17.8%	6.5%	28.6%	4.4%
Murder	100	49.2	16.7	6.8	23.3	4.0
Negligent manslaughter	100	16.1	21.7	5.2	50.7	6.3
Kidnaping	100%	36.8%	9.1%	17.5%	15.6%	21.0%
Rape and sexual assault	100%	42.9%	41.8%	2.7%	7.7%	4.9%
Forcible rape	100	44.3	38.0	3.1	10.0	4.5
Forcible sodomy	100	49.1	28.0	9.5	10.3	3.2
Statutory rape	100	46.5	48.1	0	0	5.4
Lewd acts with children	100	41.4	45.1	2.2	6.0	5.2
Other sexual assault	100	42.3	42.4	2.4	7.8	5.1
Robbery	100%	32.5%	9.3%	44.2%	12.3%	1.8%
Assault	100%	32.9%	29.7%	9.9%	21.8%	5.7%
Aggravated assault	100	31.2	20.8	15.3	28.6	4.0
Child abuse	100	35.4	53.8	0	6.9	3.8
Simple assault	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other violent	–	–	–	–	–	–

–Too few sample cases for an accurate estimate.

One in seven violent offenders whose victim was a child reported using a weapon, most often a firearm, during the crime

Most violent inmates, whether their victims were adults or children, reported that they were not carrying a weapon during the crime. However, adult victims of imprisoned violent offenders were substantially more likely to have faced an offender armed with a weapon such as a handgun or knife (table 15).

Table 15. Use of firearms by violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
Any weapon used during the offense			
No	57.1%	86.0%	50.5%
Yes*	42.9	14.0	49.5
Handgun	22.7	6.1	26.5
Knife or sharp object	11.3	4.8	12.9
Offender carried a firearm during the crime			
No	70.9%	91.5%	66.1%
Yes	29.1	8.5	33.9
Firearm discharged	15.9	4.2	18.6
Firearm not discharged	13.2	4.3	15.3
Offender carried a firearm during the offense			
All violent crimes	29.1%	8.5%	33.9%
Murder	44.1	23.4	45.5
Negligent manslaughter	31.0	11.0	33.0
Kidnaping	22.6	23.3	22.5
Forcible rape	5.7	2.6	7.6
Robbery	34.6	49.0	34.1
Aggravated assault	32.0	31.6	32.1
Total	327,958	61,037	266,920

*Includes other weapons.

- About a third of those who victimized children and carried a weapon reported that the weapon had been a knife; about a quarter of armed offenders who attacked an adult used a knife.

- Nearly 9% of child victimizers said they had carried a firearm during the crime and, for most, the firearm was a handgun — about 1 in 16 violent offenders with a child victim carried a handgun during the crime. By comparison, a third of those who victimized adults carried a firearm during the crime, about a fourth of adult victimizers reported carrying a handgun.

- For 72% of armed child victimizers and 78% of armed adult victimizers the firearm was a handgun.

- About half of both adult and child victimizers carrying a firearm reported that they discharged the firearm during the crime.

- While adult murderers were about twice as likely as child murderers to have carried a firearm during the crime, offenders convicted of kidnaping or aggravated assault were equally likely to report possession of a firearm during the crime, regardless of the victim's age.

Table 16. Physical injuries in single-victim violent crimes, by age of victims, 1991

Type of injury to victim	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having — All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
None	38.2%	57.4%	34.0%
Injury or death	61.8	42.6	66.0
Death	35.8	13.7	40.6
Gunshot wound	4.2	1.0	4.9
Stabbing wound	3.5	.4	4.2
Rape, no other injury	8.0	20.4	5.3
Rape and other injuries	2.1	3.2	1.9
Other injuries	8.2	3.8	9.0
Total	246,479	44,059	202,420

More than 40% of child victims of incarcerated violent offenders suffered forcible rape, injury, or death as a result of the crime

- An estimated 2 in 3 adult victims of violent offenders were raped or otherwise injured, compared to 2 in 5 child victims (table 16).

• About 1 in 7 child victimizers reported that the victim died as a consequence of the violent crime; violent offenders with adult victims were substantially more likely to report the death of a victim.

• For every offense, adult victims were more likely than child victims to have been injured (figure 11). The largest disparity was for sexual assault where child victims were about half as likely as adult victims to have suffered some type of injury (19% versus 40%).

• About 14% of offenders serving time after conviction for a sexual assault involving a child (excluding forcible and statutory rape), reported that the victim was raped. Nearly two-thirds (63.4%) of offenders imprisoned for aggravated assault, where the victim had been a child, reported that the child had been injured: 18.8% of the child victims had been shot, 8.8% stabbed, 8.6% had been raped, 6.6% had broken bones or teeth or had been knocked unconscious, and 7.2% had bruises. The remainder suffered other unspecified injuries.

Child victims, especially those victimized in a sexual assault, were less likely to be injured than adult victims of the same type of crime

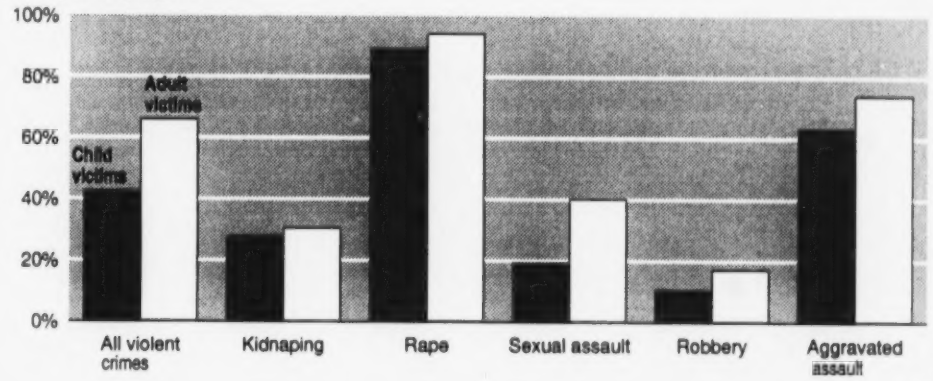


Fig. 11

Child murder: Victims and offenders

The number of child murders has been growing since the mid-1980's, with the increases concentrated in the age group 15 to 17

Over the nearly two decades from 1976 to 1994, the number of children murdered reached its lowest point in 1984, when 1,463 young people under the age of 18 became victims, and peaked in 1993, when the number of child murders reached 2,841 (figure 12). Data from the mid-1980's through the first half of the 1990's illustrate a surge in child murder — a 94% increase from the low to the peak. Between 1993 and 1994 the number of child murder victims dropped 6.4%, the first decrease in a decade but a larger number of deaths than in any year preceding 1993.

The increases observed over the last 10 years in the number of child murders are largely found among youth age 15 to 17 (figure 13) and are present for both white (figure 14) and black (figure 15) youth. The number of white murder victims age 15 to 17 climbed from a low of 287 in 1984 to 579 in 1993, more than doubling in the 9-year span. Between 1984 and 1993 the number of black murder victims age 15 to 17 increased from 245 nationwide to 855, a 249% increase over the 9 years.

- The FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), which gather data on each murder in the Nation, can be used to estimate that there were 405,089 victims of murder between 1976 and 1994. Of these, 36,951, or 9.1%, were children under age 18 (table 18, page 22). Between 1976 and 1994 a total of 18,868 white children and 16,960 black children were victims of murder.

- Half of the black children murdered were age 15 to 17, compared to about 40% of the white children:

Age of murder victim	Child victims	
	White	Black
Less than 1 year	14.2%	10.7%
1-4 years	20.5	18.8
5-14 years	24.1	19.0
15-17 years	41.2	51.5
Total number	18,868	16,960

- From 1976 to 1994 the percentages of white and black victims varied by age, with black youth accounting for a larger share of victims age 15 to 17 than white youth:

Age of murder victim	Number	Percent*	
		White	Black
All ages	36,951	51.1%	45.9%
Less than 1 year	4,670	57.5	38.9
1-4 years	7,283	53.1	43.8
5-14 years	8,045	56.4	40.1
15-17 years	16,954	45.9	51.4

*Percentages of children of other or unknown race, included in the number, are not shown separately.

Between 1976 and 1994, the number of child murders was lowest in 1984 and highest in 1993

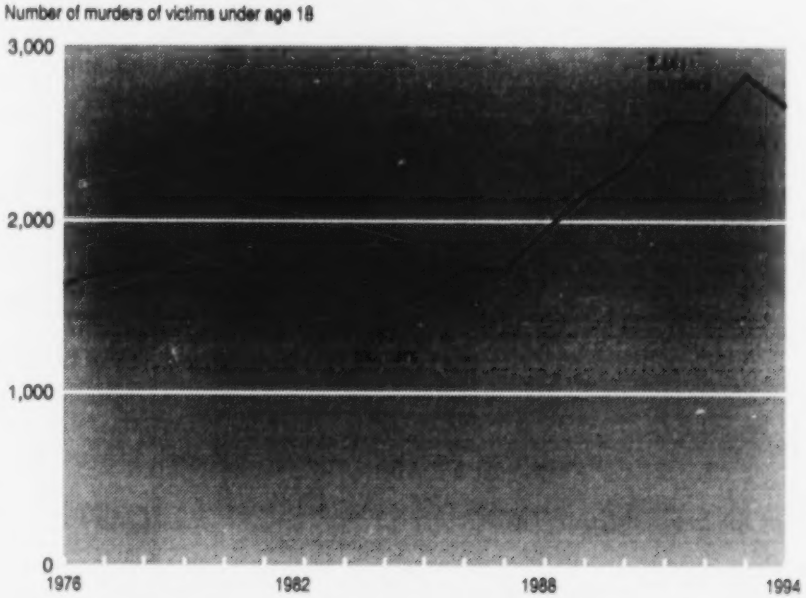
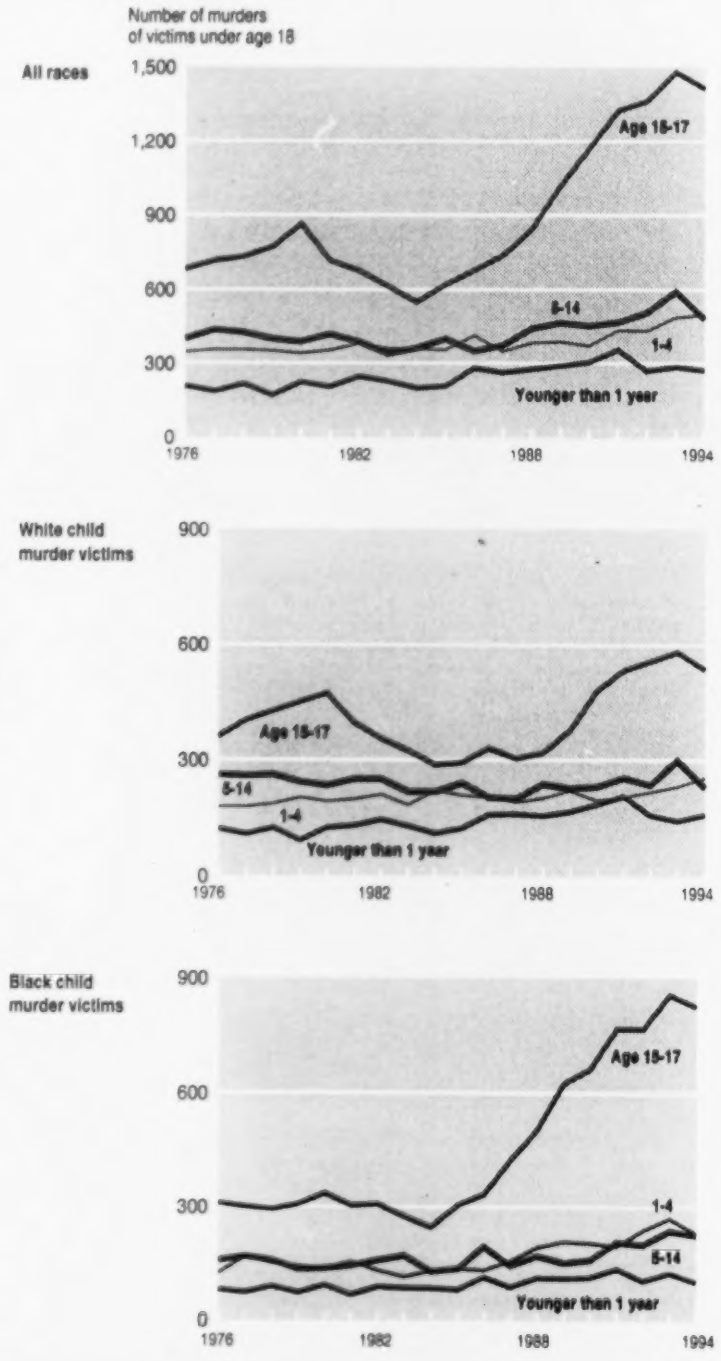


Fig. 12

Victims age 15 to 17, both white and black, accounted for almost all the increase in child murders, 1976-94



Figs. 13-15

• In 1984 black victims accounted for 45% of the murder victims age 15 to 17 (546 victims of all races); by 1994 there were 1,413 murders of persons age 15 to 17, and black youth accounted for 58% of the total.

By comparison, in 1984 black youth accounted for 14.8% of the nearly 11 million children age 15 to 17 in the resident population, and in 1994 they accounted for 15.6% of the 10.7 million persons in this age group in the resident population.

In 1984 among U.S. residents age 15 to 17, there were 5 murders for every 100,000 residents in this age range; the rate was 3.2 per 100,000 white youth and 12.4 per 100,000 black youth. By 1994 the per capita murder rate for 15-to-17 year olds more than doubled to 13.2 per 100,000. The rate for white youth in 1994 was 6.3 per 100,000, about twice what it had been in 1984, and the rate for black youth was 49.3, quadruple the rate a decade earlier.

• The victim-offender relationship in murders of children varies substantially depending upon the victim's age (figure 17). In 1994 over 70% of the murders of infants were carried out by a family member. By contrast, among victims age 15 to 17, family members accounted for 3% of the murders.

• Data for the period from 1976 to 1994 indicate that in family murder of a child about 10% of victims were age 15 to 17, while in murders by strangers about 67% of victims were in this age category:

	Victim-offender relationship, 1976-94			
Age of child victim	Family	Acquaintance	Stranger	Unknown
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Less than 1 year	31.2	4.8	1.4	6.9
1-4	36.3	17.0	6.4	9.9
5-14	22.6	20.6	25.0	21.0
15-17	9.9	57.6	67.3	62.3
Total number	10,795	13,060	4,006	9,092

Children age 15 to 17 have the highest murder victimization rate of all age groups

In 1994 the murder rate of 13.2 murders per 100,000 resident children age 15 to 17 was 23% higher than the rate for adults of 10.7 murders per 100,000. Among those younger than 15, infants had the highest murder rate, 7 murders per 100,000 children less than a year old. The murder rate for infants was about 65% of the murder rate for adults.

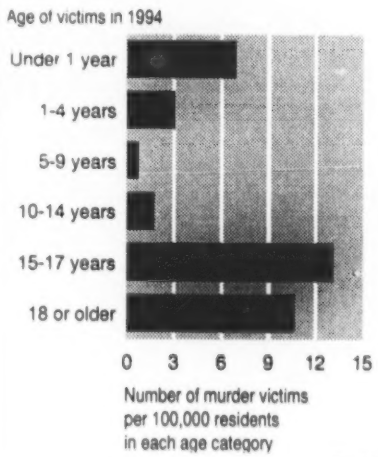
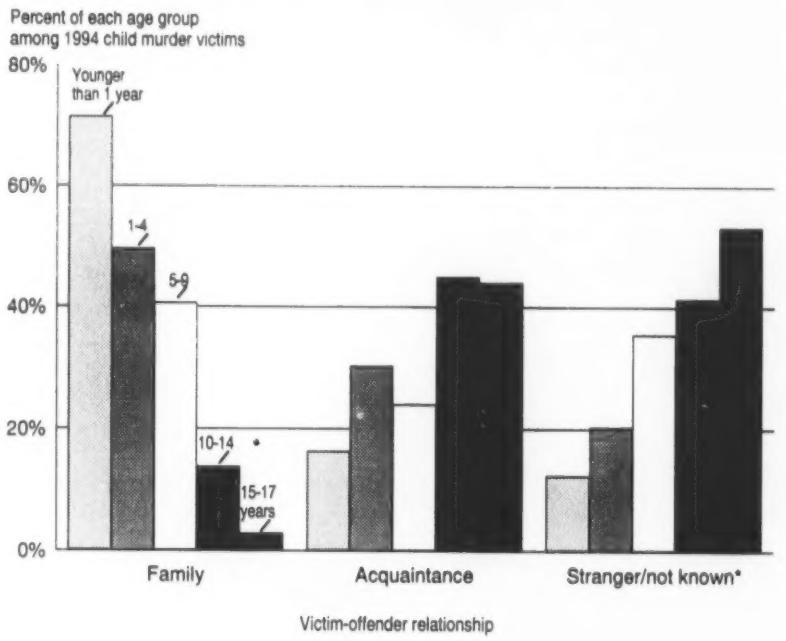


Fig. 16

Younger children are more likely to be killed by members of their own families; older children, by strangers or acquaintances



*Includes offenders not identified by law enforcement.

In 1994 of the estimated 2,660 homicide victims under age 18--

271 were younger than age 1
496 were between 1 and 4
146 were 5-9
335 were 10-14
1,412 were 15-17.

Fig. 17

• Acquaintances were the largest source of child murderers, accounting for 35% of all murders of children after 1976: only in 1982 and 1983 did the number of child murders by a family member exceed the number of murders by an acquaintance (figure 18).

• Murders committed by a family member accounted for a declining share of child murders after the mid-1980's.

• In 1994, among murders in which the age of the offender was known, almost half the murderers of children were between ages 20 and 39 (figure 19).

• After 1976 the percentage of child murders committed by other children remained relatively stable; however, the percentage of child murders in which the offender was unknown grew from about 20% of murders in 1976 to about the same level in 1994 as in 1979 and 1980 — just under 30% (figure 20).

Between 1983 and 1994 family members were responsible for a declining percentage of child murders; after the mid-1980's the percentage of child murders attributable to unknown offenders rose

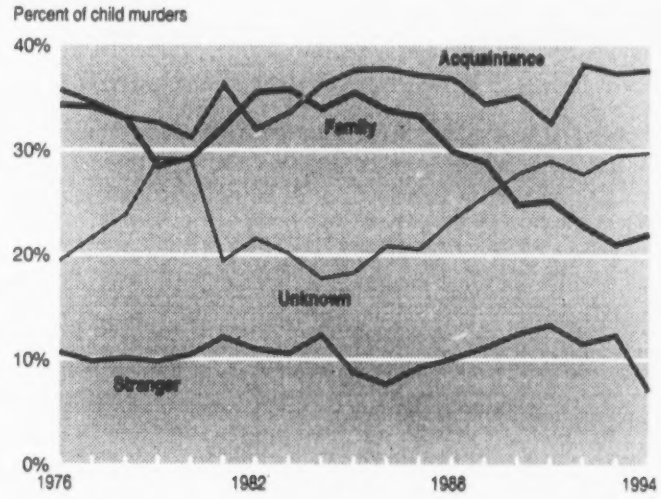
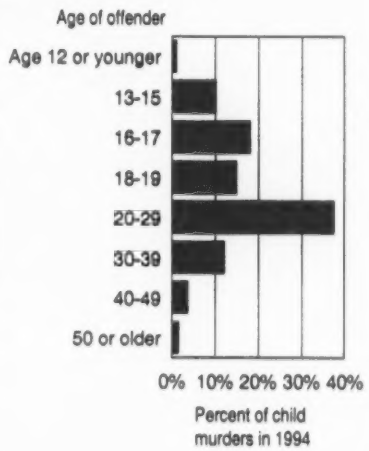


Fig. 18

Children under age 18 were responsible for nearly 30% of murders of children in 1994



Note: Excludes 749 child murder cases in which the offender was unknown (from a total of 2,660 cases).

Fig. 19

Children killing children made up a relatively constant proportion of child murders from 1976 to 1994, accounting for 20% of child murder victims in 1976 and 21% of those who died in 1994

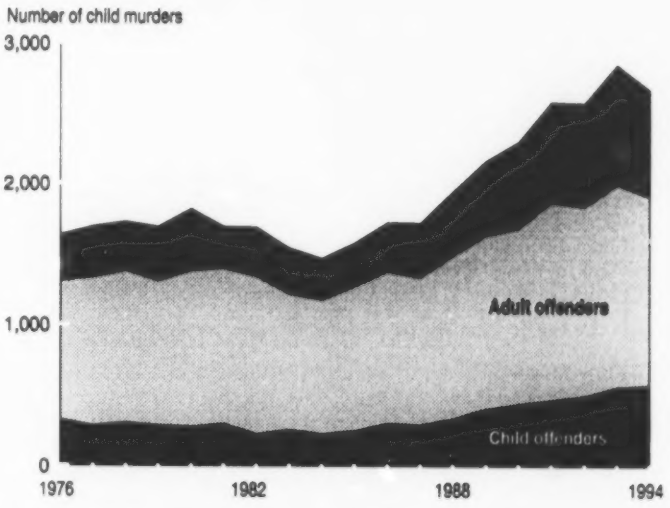
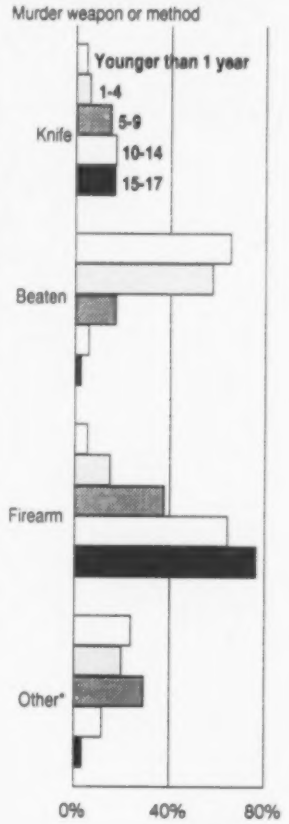


Fig. 20

• The types of weapons used in child murders varies with the age of the victim (figure 21). While almost two-thirds of infant murder victims were beaten to death by an offender using hands, feet, or a blunt object, about 3% of those age 15 to 17 were killed in this fashion. Over three-quarters of the oldest child murder victims were killed by a firearm. By 1994 handguns accounted for nearly 48% of all murders of children, a sharp increase after the mid-1980's when less than 30% of child murders were by a handgun (figure 22).

Older child murder victims are most likely to be killed with guns, while younger victims are most often beaten



Percent of child murder victims in each age group, 1976-94, based on 31,505 cases for which the type of weapon was reported

*Includes arson, drowning, poison, and strangling.

Fig. 21

By 1994 half of child murders were committed with a handgun, a sharp increase after the mid-1980's, when a quarter were committed with a handgun

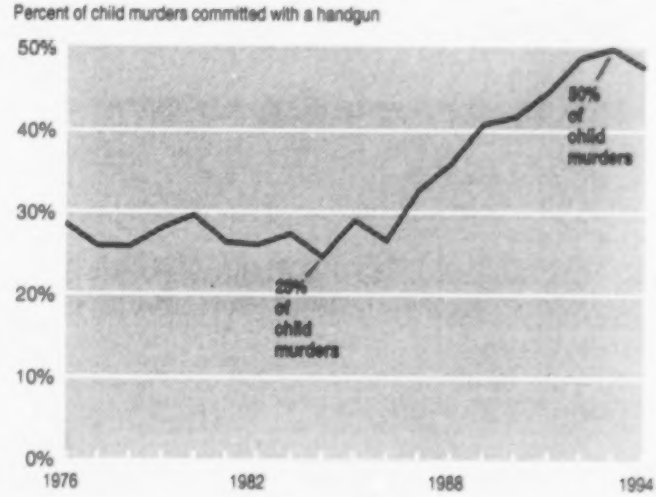


Fig. 22

Between 1984 and 1993 the number of murder victims age 15-17 climbed 171%, as handgun murders among these victims climbed 363%

In 1976, 45% of the murder victims age 15-17 were shot by a handgun; in 1994, 69%.

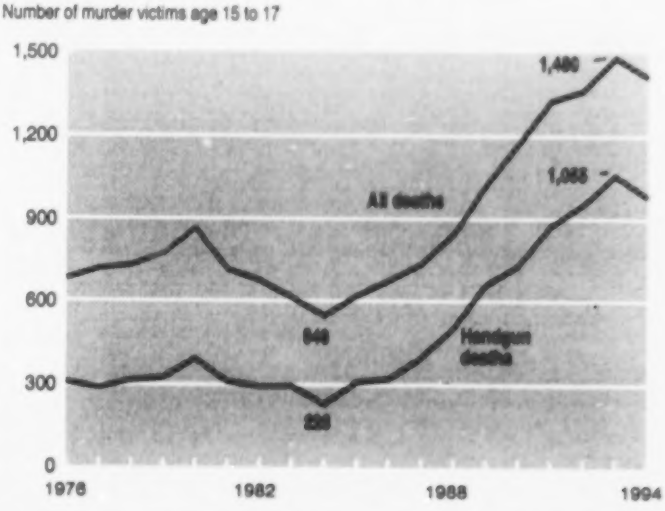


Fig. 23

Younger offenders are increasingly involved in the murders of children who are strangers to them, of children age 15-17, and of children killed with a handgun

Between 1976 and 1994, the average age of those who murdered children who were strangers to them declined from a high of 27 years in 1977 to 21 years in 1994. The average age of murderers of children age 15 to 17 declined from just over age 24 to age 20 during the same period. The average ages of murderers of children who were family members or acquaintances remained relatively stable over the period:

Relationship to child victim	Average age of offenders, 1976-94
Family members	26-27
Acquaintances	21-23

The average ages of murderers of children younger than 15 were substantially unchanged from 1976 to 1994:

Age group of child victim	Average age of offenders, 1976-94
Younger than 1	23-25
1-4	24-26
5-14	25-27

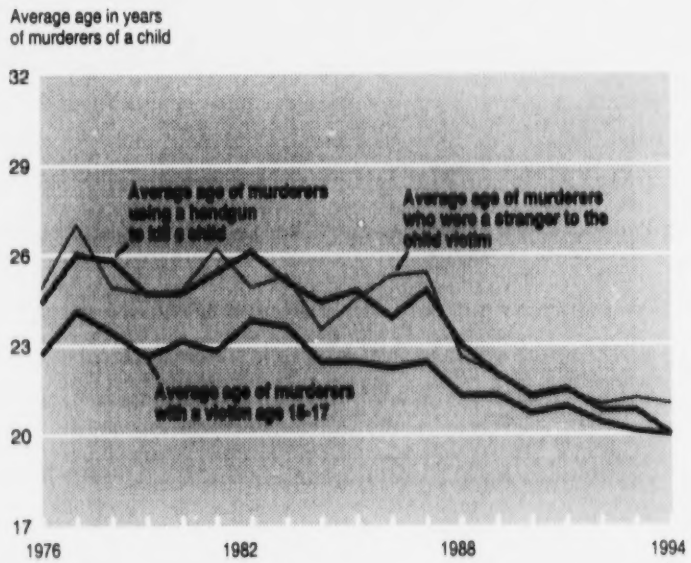


Fig. 24

In 1994 States varied substantially in the number of child murders per capita

Three States, North Dakota (1 adult murder victim), Vermont (6 adult murder victims), and Wyoming (16 adult murder victims) reported no murders of children during 1994 (table 17). Based on those jurisdictions reporting in 1994 and excluding the wholly urban District of Columbia, the highest per capita rates of child murder occurred in Illinois (6.5 murders per 100,000 children under age 18), California (5.5 murders per 100,000), and Louisiana (5.3 per 100,000). (See the map on page 23 for a national representation of child murder rates.) These States accounted for 19% of all children living in the reporting States in 1994 but nearly 30% of the child murder victims that year.

• Between 1976 and 1994 an estimated 405,089 murders occurred in the United States. Of these, an estimated 36,951 had been murders of children below age 18. Over the 19 years for which the FBI collected Supplementary Homicide Reports, about 92% of all murders resulted in the submission of a report — 34,005 reports for child victims and 338,885 reports for victims who were adults or of unknown age (table 18).

• The national estimate that 36,951 children were murdered over the period from 1976 to 1994 translates into an average of about 1,945 child murder victims per year or about 5 per day in the United States. The number of murders in 1994 translates into an average of about 7 victims per day.

Table 17. Murders, by age of victim and rates of child murder by State, 1994

Jurisdiction	Age of murder victim: Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	18 or older	Unknown age	Total of murder victims	Persons under age 18: Percent of victims	Resident U.S. population	Rate of murder per 100,000
Alabama		9	2	6	30	418	34	499	9.4%	1,080,000	4.4
Alaska				1	3	33		37	10.8	192,000	2.1
Arizona	8	14	3	3	28	359	4	419	13.4	1,139,000	4.9
Arkansas	5	4		4	10	266	4	293	7.8	640,000	3.6
California	49	67	15	63	279	3,172	67	3,712	12.7	8,677,000	5.5
Colorado	4	4		1	13	152	4	178	12.4	970,000	2.3
Connecticut	3	3	1	2	17	190		216	12.0	788,000	3.3
Delaware					1	11	1	13	7.7	175,000	0.6
Dist. of Columbia		2	2	5	21	342	26	398	7.5	119,000	25.2
Florida		45	17	16	47	1,054	2	1,181	10.6	3,262,000	3.8
Georgia	7	14	4	8	37	598	10	678	10.3%	1,893,000	3.7
Hawaii	1					49		50	2.0	304,000	0.3
Idaho	1	3		1	4	31		40	22.5	339,000	2.7
Illinois	6	21	10	32	130	956	22	1,177	16.9	3,083,000	6.5
Indiana	5	5	1	8	22	329	11	381	10.8	1,473,000	2.8
Iowa		2		1	4	36	1	44	15.9	729,000	1.0
Kentucky	1	2		1	2	78		84	7.1	970,000	0.6
Louisiana	3	11	1	7	44	748	10	824	8.0	1,235,000	5.3
Maine	1	2	2			22		27	18.5	306,000	1.6
Maryland	5	12	2	12	25	519	4	579	9.7	1,263,000	4.4
Massachusetts	3	2	3	2	16	176	1	203	12.8%	1,424,000	1.8
Michigan	14	12	5	16	42	799	5	893	10.0	2,525,000	3.5
Minnesota	1	5	2	3	8	119		138	13.8	1,241,000	1.5
Mississippi	4	2	1		17	198	7	229	10.5	756,000	3.2
Missouri	4	15	3	4	54	446	6	532	15.0	1,379,000	5.8
Nebraska	1					14		15	6.7	442,000	0.2
Nevada	3	2	2	2	6	152	2	169	8.9	376,000	4.0
New Hampshire		1			1	13		15	13.3	292,000	0.7
New Jersey	11	14	6	11	20	331	3	396	15.7	1,931,000	3.2
New Mexico		3			8	96		107	10.3	498,000	2.2
New York	33	37	7	18	98	1,736	64	1,993	9.7%	4,511,000	4.3
North Carolina	4	13	6	10	28	673	23	757	8.1	1,756,000	3.5
North Dakota						1		1	0	172,000	0.0
Ohio	14	14	4	11	27	528	2	600	11.7	2,854,000	2.5
Oklahoma	3	8	2	3	15	196		227	13.7	880,000	3.5
Oregon	1	4		2	3	139	1	150	6.7	783,000	1.3
Pennsylvania	12	22	14	10	39	602		699	13.9	2,898,000	3.3
Rhode Island	1	1				37	2	41	4.9	240,000	0.8
South Carolina	4	11	2	4	19	315		355	11.3	952,000	4.2
South Dakota		1				8		9	11.1	208,000	0.5
Tennessee	4	11	4	4	19	368	8	418	10.0%	1,297,000	3.2
Texas	13	40	8	28	135	1,751	52	2,027	11.1	5,301,000	4.2
Utah		4		1	6	50	3	64	17.2	672,000	1.6
Vermont						6		6	0	146,000	0.0
Virginia	15	11	2	6	20	520	3	577	9.4	1,603,000	3.4
Washington	4	12	3	7	19	247	1	293	15.4	1,408,000	3.2
West Virginia		2			3	94		99	5.1	429,000	1.2
Wisconsin	9	3	4	4	19	185	1	225	17.3	1,347,000	2.9
Wyoming						16		16	0	137,000	0.0
Total	257	470	138	317	1,339	19,179	384	22,084	11.4%	67,095,000	3.8

Note: Kansas and Montana did not report data for 1994. The table excludes an estimated 1,144 murder victims for whom Supplementary Homicide Reports were not submitted.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

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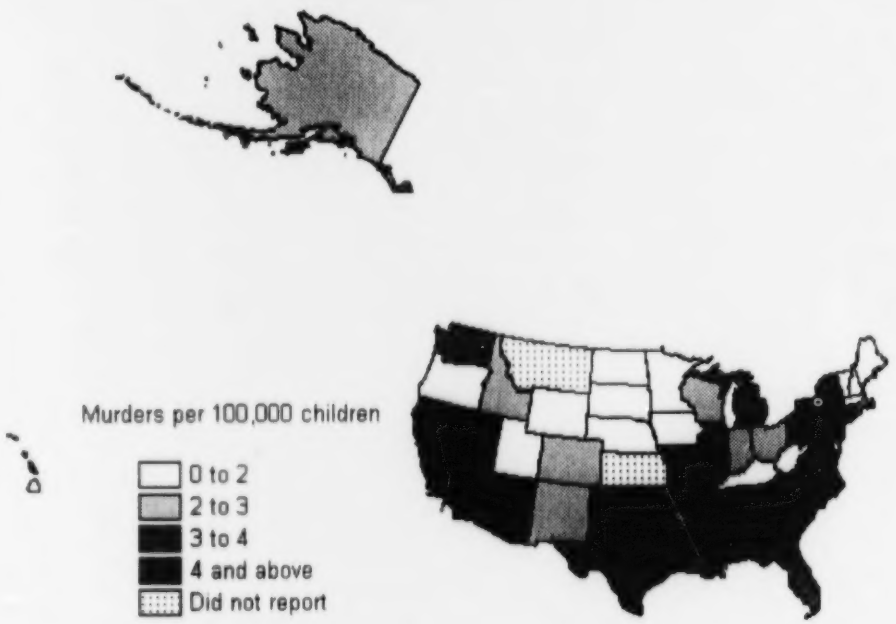
Table 18. Murders, by age of victim and State, 1976-94

Jurisdiction	Age of murder victim: Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	18 or older	Unknown age	Total number of murder victims	Percent of victims under age 18
Alabama	41	105	44	69	234	7,487	148	8,128	6.1%
Alaska	12	22	16	15	34	788	5	892	11.1
Arizona	53	135	47	69	214	4,326	107	4,951	10.5
Arkansas	50	67	29	52	117	3,525	45	3,885	8.1
California	640	966	372	808	3,191	51,571	905	58,453	10.2
Colorado	99	97	31	58	139	3,040	50	3,514	12.1
Connecticut	37	52	39	46	164	2,470	20	2,828	12.0
Delaware	10	23	6	11	15	504	9	578	11.2
Dist. of Columbia	22	51	14	40	241	4,665	197	5,230	7.0
Florida	104	311	132	172	512	16,257	483	17,971	6.8
Georgia	89	169	63	96	339	10,371	228	11,355	6.7
Hawaii	20	18	9	7	28	867	2	951	8.6%
Idaho	14	27	6	19	26	540	7	639	14.4
Illinois	143	377	137	258	1,104	15,632	83	17,734	11.4
Indiana	65	133	60	84	225	5,184	142	5,893	9.6
Iowa	25	37	13	20	40	794	12	941	14.3
Kansas	26	73	22	35	64	1,736	50	2,006	11.0
Kentucky	45	76	23	41	126	4,223	34	4,568	6.8
Louisiana	80	122	57	111	422	9,582	271	10,645	7.4
Maine	6	13	9	16	16	397	1	458	13.1
Maryland	90	156	70	112	371	7,556	53	8,408	9.5
Massachusetts	58	64	41	54	199	3,102	25	3,543	11.7
Michigan	153	326	133	277	862	15,893	99	17,743	9.9%
Minnesota	55	73	20	35	88	1,612	9	1,892	14.3
Mississippi	41	36	24	29	121	3,331	83	3,665	6.8
Missouri	119	163	58	105	406	7,447	109	8,407	10.1
Montana	4	17	5	1	11	292	3	333	11.4
Nebraska	23	35	12	19	29	678	3	799	14.8
Nevada	23	29	16	20	60	1,912	32	2,092	7.1
New Hampshire	10	28	8	7	14	340	1	408	16.4
New Jersey	163	215	120	130	337	6,862	156	7,983	12.1
New Mexico	30	47	16	26	68	1,686	47	1,920	9.7
New York	446	478	255	422	1,634	32,886	779	36,900	8.8
North Carolina	102	127	56	104	321	10,303	228	11,241	6.3%
North Dakota	6	5	4	1	7	130	1	154	14.9
Ohio	173	290	119	182	402	10,845	74	12,085	9.6
Oklahoma	86	116	57	56	153	4,200	24	4,692	10.0
Oregon	50	75	41	37	74	2,140	11	2,428	11.4
Pennsylvania	241	299	137	172	543	11,257	31	12,680	11.0
Rhode Island	17	12	11	7	29	603	12	691	11.0
South Carolina	75	95	22	57	174	5,959	24	6,406	6.6
South Dakota	8	13	5	4	8	162	2	202	18.8
Tennessee	35	82	31	46	205	6,979	117	7,495	5.3
Texas	334	575	215	428	1,463	35,102	1,351	39,468	7.6%
Utah	32	60	14	21	40	766	21	954	17.5
Vermont	3	4	4		8	157	5	181	10.5
Virginia	146	153	62	85	316	8,168	55	8,985	8.5
Washington	74	107	42	71	193	3,472	63	4,022	12.1
West Virginia	1	59	8	22	50	1,872	5	2,017	6.9
Wisconsin	92	84	32	67	156	2,617	11	3,059	14.1
Wyoming	16	13	10	6	8	359	5	417	12.7
Total	4,287	6,710	2,777	4,630	15,601	332,647	6,238	372,890	9.1%

Note: The table excludes an estimated 32,199 murders (with an estimated 2,946 child victims) for which Supplementary Homicide Reports were not received. The estimated total number of murders over the period was 405,089, including 36,951 child victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

In 1994, 3.8 child murders occurred per every 100,000 U.S. residents under age 18



The data from the FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports are presented on page 21.

Fig. 25

Explanatory notes

Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities

The 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities was conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Through personal interviews during June, July, and August 1991, data were collected on individual characteristics of prison inmates, current offenses and sentences, characteristics of victims, criminal histories, family background, gun possession and use, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, educational programs and other services provided while in prison, and other personal characteristics. Similar surveys of State prison inmates were conducted in 1974, 1979, and 1986.

Sample design

The sample for the 1991 survey was selected from a universe of 1,239 State prisons that were enumerated in the 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities or had been opened after completion of the census. The sample design was a stratified two-stage selection.

In the first stage, correctional facilities were separated into two sampling frames: one for prisons with male inmates and one for prisons with female inmates. Prisons holding both sexes were included on both lists. Within each frame, prisons were stratified into eight strata defined by census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) and facility type (confinement and community-based). All prisons with 1,950 or more male inmates were selected, and all prisons with 380 or more female inmates were selected. The remaining prisons in the male frame were grouped into equal size strata containing about 2,600 males and then stratified by security level (maximum, medium, minimum, and unclassified). The remaining prisons in the female frame were also grouped into strata of approximately 574 females. A systematic sample of prisons was then selected within strata on each frame with probabilities proportional to the size of each prison. Overall, a total of 277 prisons was selected.

In the second stage, interviewers visited each selected facility and systematically selected a sample of male and female inmates using predetermined procedures. As a result, approximately 1 of every 52 male inmates and 1 of every 11 female inmates were

selected. A total of 13,986 interviews were completed, yielding an overall response rate of 93.7%.

Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These factors were adjusted for variable rates of nonresponse across strata and inmate characteristics. The survey estimates were further adjusted to the mid-1991 custody counts. The National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1) series, as reported in a Department of Justice release of October 1991, provided the basis of these estimated counts.

Identifying child victims

The inmate survey queried offenders about their victims, collecting information on the number of victims, demographic characteristics of the victims, the relationship of the victim to the offender, the use of weapons against the victim, and the types of injuries victims suffered. Offenders serving time after conviction for primarily violent crimes were asked to provide as much information as they knew about the victims (a small number of offenders convicted of certain public-order crimes also answered a few questions about victims). Overall, about 1 in 4 inmates reported that they had committed their crime against multiple victims. These offenders were given a separate battery of questions geared to obtaining general information on these groups of victims. For example, the violent offenders who reported multiple victims were asked to report whether most victims fell in one racial group, the ages of the oldest and youngest victims, and whether any of the victims was previously known to the offender.

For this study single-victim offenders were selected if they reported that the victim fell in age groups 12 or younger or 13-to-17. Those with multiple victims who reported that any victim was less than age 18 were also incorporated into the study sample. These procedures produced a weighted estimate of 61,037 violent inmates with at least one victim under age 18.

Supplementary Homicide Reporting Program (SHR)

The SHR is a monthly report from local law enforcement agencies obtained under the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The SHR details a wide variety of information on each reported criminal homicide, differentiating murders and nonnegligent manslaughters from negligent manslaughters, and includes incident-based data on the —

— number of victims and number of offenders in each incident
— age, race, sex, and ethnic origin for victims and offenders
— type of weapon used
— relationship of victim to offender
— a narrative statement about the circumstances surrounding the homicide.

The dataset utilized in these analyses, the *Uniform Crime Reports: Supplementary Homicide Reports 1976-1994*, contains 373,000 records of murder victims, 92% of the total number of murders which occurred over the period. The analysis for this report weighted the number of victims to conform to the annual published estimates from the FBI, using the victim weights shown below:

1976	1.130985	1986	1.070260
1977	1.060278	1987	1.118967
1978	1.045207	1988	1.150743
1979	1.042203	1989	1.134445
1980	1.053980	1990	1.156218
1981	1.123024	1991	1.139509
1982	1.078265	1992	1.045959
1983	1.034113	1993	1.058067
1984	1.082851	1994	1.055289
1985	1.081790		

The dataset and documentation will soon be available through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan. Data for 1976 to 1992 are currently available as study number ICPSR 6387. Further information on the Supplementary Homicide Reports may be obtained from the Criminal Justice Information Services Section of the FBI.

Data shown in the graphical figures

Cover figure. Violent State prison inmates who committed their offense against a child, by victims' age and the offense, 1991

Violent crimes	Percent of violent State prison inmates: Victims age 12 or younger	Victims age 13 to 17
All	10.1%	8.5%
Murder	3.1	3.2
Negligent manslaughter	5.7	3.0
Kidnaping	3.2	9.9
Forcible rape	17.1	22.0
Sexual assault	48.5	29.5
Robbery	1.0	2.6
Aggravated assault	5.4	4.8

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 1, page 2. Child victimizers in State prison, by victims' age and the offense, 1991

Violent crimes	Percent of child victimizers with victims age 12 or younger
Child abuse	89.3%
Lewd acts with a child	69.2
Negligent manslaughter	65.2
Statutory rape	62.1
Forcible sodomy	60.0
Other sexual assaults	59.2
Murder	48.7
Kidnaping	45.2
Forcible rape	43.7
Aggravated assault	41.3
Robbery	27.2
Simple assault	19.4

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 3, page 4. Child victimizers in State prison, by number of prior arrests, 1991

Number of prior arrests	Percent of child victimizers
No arrests before the current charge	28.3%
1	22.0
2	17.9
3	13.2
4	16.9
5	12.2
6-9	14.4
10 or more	12.1

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 4, page 4. Criminal histories of violent State prison inmates, by age of victim, 1991

	Percent of violent State prison inmates	
Criminal history	Child victims	Adult victims
No prior arrests	40.7%	26.8%
Prior conviction for a violent offense against a victim of unknown age	20.4	32.2
Prior conviction for a child-related violent offense	4.4	.4
Prior conviction for a nonviolent offense	34.5	40.6

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 5, page 5. Child victimizers in State prison, by age at arrest for current offense, 1991

Age at arrest current offense	Percent of child victimizers
Under age 18	12.7%
18-24	12.5
25-29	14.5
30-34	20.4
35-39	24.9
40-44	28.7
45-49	33.7
50-54	44.1
55-59	52.6
Age 60 or over	37.7

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 6, page 8. Median sentences for violent State prison inmates, by age of victim and offense, 1991

	Median sentence in months for inmates with —	
Violent crimes	Child victims	Adult victims
All	132 mo	180 mo
Murder	360	300
Kidnaping	288	204
Negligent manslaughter	180	156
Rape	180	240
Sexual assault	132	185
Robbery	144	144
Aggravated assault	120	120

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 7, page 9. Violent State prison inmates with multiple victims, by age of victim and offense, 1991

	Percent of State prison inmates with multiple victims	
Violent crimes	Child victims	Adult victims
All	29.3%	22.6%
Murder	37.9	13.0
Negligent manslaughter	41.5	12.7
Forcible rape	20.3	10.1
Sexual assault	20.8	9.2
Robbery	77.0	35.1
Aggravated assault	42.7	19.6

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 8, page 11. Violent State prison inmates who victimized a relative, by age of victim and offense, 1991

	Percent of State prison inmates victimizing a family member and —	
Violent crimes	Child	Adult
All	43.2%	6.8%
Murder	32.6	10.1
Negligent manslaughter	26.1	10.0
Forcible rape	45.1	6.3
Robbery	14.9	.4
Aggravated assault	31.1	9.8

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 9, page 11. Violent State prison inmates who victimized a stranger, by age of victim and offense, 1991

	Percent of State prison inmates victimizing a stranger and —	
Violent crimes	Child	Adult
All	14.6%	54.8%
Murder	29.1	43.8
Negligent manslaughter	31.5	36.0
Forcible rape	11.9	40.8
Robbery	55.3	81.0
Aggravated assault	29.8	43.8

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 10, page 12. Location of offenses of violent State prison inmates, by age of victim, 1991

	Percent of State prison inmates	
Location of violent offenses	Child victims	Adult victims
Victim's home	41%	25%
Offender's home	35	16
Public place	12	26
Commercial place	7	28
Other locations	5	6

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 11, page 14. Violent State prison inmates who reported injuring their victim, by age of victim and offense, 1991

	Percent of State prison inmates who reported injuring a —	
Violent crimes	Child	Adult
All	42.6%	66.0%
Murder	27.6	30.4
Negligent manslaughter	89.3	94.0
Forcible rape	19.3	40.1
Robbery	10.6	17.2
Aggravated assault	63.4	74.0

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991

Figure 12, page 15. Number of murders of children, 1976-94

Year	Number of murders of children reported to the police
1976	1,629
1977	1,692
1978	1,725
1979	1,688
1980	1,813
1981	1,688
1982	1,686
1983	1,537
1984	1,463
1985	1,573
1986	1,719
1987	1,713
1988	1,938
1989	2,154
1990	2,295
1991	2,574
1992	2,564
1993	2,841
1994	2,660

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 13, page 16. Number of murders of children, by age of victim, 1976-94

	Number of murders of children whose age was —			
Year	Less than 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-17
1976	206	345	397	681
1977	184	355	435	717
1978	216	354	423	731
1979	170	350	397	771
1980	222	341	387	862
1981	204	352	417	715
1982	246	380	386	675
1983	228	359	338	612
1984	199	358	360	546
1985	206	353	396	619
1986	280	412	350	676
1987	261	346	371	735
1988	275	381	438	843
1989	288	386	461	1,020
1990	305	370	450	1,170
1991	354	431	465	1,324
1992	268	430	504	1,362
1993	286	485	590	1,480
1994	271	496	480	1,413

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 14, page 16. Number of murders of white children, by age of victim, 1976-94

	Number of murders of white children whose age was —			
Year	Less than 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-17
1976	121	179	261	361
1977	107	179	258	403
1978	124	186	261	427
1979	91	202	243	450
1980	123	192	232	473
1981	130	198	250	396
1982	144	210	249	355
1983	128	183	218	324
1984	109	219	217	287
1985	122	208	239	293
1986	158	202	203	330
1987	159	191	199	303
1988	155	201	236	318
1989	166	220	226	376
1990	184	195	230	479
1991	205	204	252	532
1992	156	217	235	556
1993	142	230	298	579
1994	158	254	229	535

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 15, page 16. Number of murders of black children, by age of victim, 1976-94

	Number of murders of black children whose age was —			
Year	Less than 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-17
1976	80	158	126	308
1977	73	169	169	300
1978	89	159	152	293
1979	73	135	144	306
1980	93	138	137	335
1981	67	146	156	303
1982	88	159	132	306
1983	85	170	115	275
1984	84	129	131	245
1985	80	136	136	303
1986	113	195	134	332
1987	88	145	157	420
1988	112	170	193	501
1989	111	152	208	623
1990	113	161	205	661
1991	136	207	197	766
1992	104	201	238	766
1993	125	237	270	855
1994	102	226	231	824

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 16, page 17. Homicide rate in the United States, by age of victim, 1994

Age	U.S. resident population	Estimated number of murder victims	Number of murder victims per 100,000 U.S. residents in each age category
Under 1 year	3,870,000	271	7.0
1-4	15,856,000	496	3.1
5-9	18,859,000	146	0.8
10-14	18,753,000	335	1.8
15-17	10,679,000	1,413	13.2
18 or over	192,324,000	20,645	10.7
All under age 18	68,017,000	2,660	3.9

Note: The graph presents the shaded portion.

Sources: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports; Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995*, table 22.

Figure 17, page 17. Murders of children, by victim-offender relationship and age of victims, 1994

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of murder victims age — Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17
Family members	71.4%	49.5%	40.6%	13.7%	2.8%
Acquaintances	16.3	30.2	23.9	44.9	44.0
Strangers/not known, including unidentified offenders	12.3	20.2	35.5	41.3	53.2

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 18, page 18. Victim-offender relationship in child murders, 1976-94

Year	Percent of murders of victims under age 18 in which the victim-offender relationship was one of — Family members	Acquaintances	Strangers	Unknown
1976	34.3%	35.7%	10.6%	19.4%
1977	34.1	34.5	9.8	21.6
1978	33.0	33.1	10.1	23.8
1979	28.4	32.6	9.8	29.2
1980	29.3	31.2	10.4	29.1
1981	32.2	36.2	12.1	19.4
1982	35.5	32.0	11.0	21.5
1983	35.8	33.6	10.5	20.1
1984	33.9	36.2	12.3	17.7
1985	35.4	37.6	8.7	18.3
1986	33.8	37.7	7.6	20.8
1987	33.2	37.1	9.2	20.5
1988	29.9	36.8	10.1	23.3
1989	28.9	34.4	11.1	25.6
1990	24.8	35.1	12.4	27.7
1991	25.1	32.6	13.3	29.0
1992	22.8	38.1	11.5	27.7
1993	21.0	37.3	12.3	29.5
1994	22.0	37.6	10.6	29.8

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 19, page 18. Age of offenders in murders of children, 1994

Age of offender	Percent of murders of victims under age 18
Age 12 or under	1.2%
13-15	10.2
16-17	18.2
18-19	15.2
20-29	37.5
30-39	12.2
40-49	3.8
50 or over	1.7

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 20, page 18. Child murders, by age of offender, 1976-94

Year	Number of murders of victims under age 18 in which the offender was — Child	Adult	Unknown
1976	327	986	316
1977	287	1,049	355
1978	306	1,078	340
1979	288	1,024	376
1980	277	1,107	429
1981	294	1,105	289
1982	227	1,116	343
1983	255	964	317
1984	227	947	289
1985	246	1,026	300
1986	298	1,077	344
1987	287	1,047	379
1988	332	1,158	448
1989	402	1,236	517
1990	432	1,252	611
1991	463	1,407	704
1992	489	1,350	724
1993	553	1,446	841
1994	567	1,345	749

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 21, page 19. Murders of children, by age of victim and weapon or method, 1994

Murder weapon/method	Percent of murder victims age — Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17
Knife	4.9	6.5	15.2	17.4	16.8
Beaten[a]	65.6	58.1	17.4	6.0	2.9
Firearm	5.6	15.2	37.9	64.6	76.7
Other[b]	24.0	20.2	29.5	12.0	3.7

[a]Includes beaten with a blunt object, hit with a hand or fist, and kicked with feet.
[b]Includes arson, drowning, poison, and strangling.
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

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Figure 22, page 19. Murders of children committed with a handgun, 1976-94

Year	Percent of murders of children committed with a handgun
1976	28.5%
1977	25.9
1978	25.8
1979	28.0
1980	29.6
1981	26.3
1982	26.0
1983	27.3
1984	24.6
1985	29.0
1986	26.6
1987	32.7
1988	36.0
1989	40.8
1990	41.7
1991	44.7
1992	48.8
1993	49.9
1994	47.6

Note: Percentages are based on all cases, including those in which the type of weapon was not reported.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 23, page 19. Murders of victims age 15-17, by whether a handgun was used, 1976-94

	Number of murders of victims age 15-17 —	
Year	All	With handgun
1976	681	305
1977	717	289
1978	731	312
1979	771	324
1980	862	392
1981	715	309
1982	675	292
1983	612	294
1984	546	228
1985	619	307
1986	676	318
1987	735	394
1988	843	503
1989	1,020	659
1990	1,170	727
1991	1,324	872
1992	1,362	949
1993	1,480	1,055
1994	1,413	978

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 24, page 20. Average age of child murderers, by their relationship to the victim, by the victims' age, and by whether the offender used a handgun, 1976-94

	Average age of child murderers in years								
		Relation to victim			Age of victim				Used a handgun
	All child victims	Family	Acquaintance	Stranger	Less than 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-17	
1976	24.2	26.3	22.1	24.9	23.8	25.1	25.9	22.7	24.4
1977	24.9	27.3	22.1	27.0	23.1	25.3	27.0	24.1	26.0
1978	24.4	26.4	22.3	24.9	23.3	24.4	26.0	23.4	25.8
1979	24.3	26.5	22.2	24.7	23.3	25.0	25.7	22.6	24.7
1980	24.9	27.2	22.9	24.8	24.2	26.1	26.1	23.1	24.7
1981	24.8	26.8	22.7	26.2	23.8	25.9	27.1	22.8	25.4
1982	25.1	27.7	22.5	24.9	23.7	25.8	27.3	23.8	26.1
1983	24.8	26.3	23.1	25.3	23.5	26.1	26.1	23.8	25.1
1984	24.4	27.2	22.1	23.5	24.0	25.4	26.9	22.4	24.4
1985	24.9	27.2	22.9	24.5	23.9	26.8	27.2	22.4	24.8
1986	24.3	26.8	22.1	25.3	25.4	26.0	26.0	22.2	23.9
1987	24.7	27.3	22.1	25.4	23.9	26.5	26.8	22.4	24.8
1988	24.1	27.0	22.4	22.6	24.1	26.7	26.4	21.3	23.0
1989	23.9	28.0	21.6	22.0	25.2	27.0	25.2	21.3	22.0
1990	23.1	27.4	21.2	21.2	24.3	25.8	25.0	20.7	21.3
1991	23.3	27.5	21.5	21.4	25.0	26.4	24.6	20.9	21.5
1992	22.7	27.2	20.9	21.0	24.2	26.4	23.6	20.4	20.8
1993	22.7	27.8	20.8	21.2	24.3	26.9	24.0	20.1	20.8
1994	22.5	27.4	20.5	21.0	25.7	26.0	22.9	20.0	20.0

Note: The mean age of offenders was based on 28,921 victims for victim-offender relationship and on 31,467 victims for age of victim and for handgun use.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

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